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41st Year ◆ No. 18 | Serving the West Sacramento Region Since 1964 | Wednesday, Dec. 15, 2004

Ten finalists in controversial council selection

By Steve Marschke
News-Ledger Editor

The prospect of winning a seat on the West Sacramento City Council without actually going through an election campaign must have been appealing to a lot of locals: 32 of them responded to a city mass mailing calling for applicants to the post.

Yesterday, Mayor Christopher Cabaldon and Council Member Carolyn Castillo Pierson sat down with the stack of applications and narrowed the field to a final ten. And tomorrow, the pair will join council colleagues Bill Kristoff and Oscar Villegas in a public interview process to select a winner from among these ten. That winner will be offered the chance to fill the remaining two-and-a-half years of a term on the West Sacramento City Council.

Last night, Cabaldon made that final ten public. They -- and their self-described occupations -- are:

Derek Backus, attorney; Wesley Beers, chief, state child welfare services & evaluation branch (and a former mayor and councilmember of West Sacramento); Scott Blunk, owner, Green Tree Homes, Inc.; Linda Copeland, doctor; Matthew Hargrove, government and community relations/alumni relations worker (and appointee of Cabaldon to the city housing advisory commission, appointed by Cabaldon); Mark Johannessen, attorney; Dennis Main, state training officer; Charles Moore, retired businessman (and appointee of Kristoff's to the planning commission); M. Robert White, local government management; and Kathleen Tschogl, ombudsman for the state air resources board.

One of those who didn't make the cut was Tom Martin, a city parking enforcement officer and unsuccessful opponent of Cabaldon in last month's campaign to be the city's mayor. Martin yesterday echoed his earlier call to fill the council vacancy by a special election instead of by appointment of the other four council members. But he was among the 32 who applied for the appointment.

"I think it should have gone to a vote in the beginning," said Martin. "But I took a third of the votes (in November's race for mayor) and Christopher and Carolyn (who screened the applicants yesterday) believed I wasn't qualified for the position. How can you take a third of the votes for mayor and not be qualified for the city council?"

Martin's wife, grocery store owner Janice Ballard, was also among the applicants not selected to the final cut.

Among those who did not apply were former councilman Mark Montemayor, who lost his seat by coming in third in the race at a time when regular council seats were being reduced in number. One such seat was eliminated this year to make way for a new post of elected mayor. Montemayor had asked the council to appoint him to fill the vacancy, noting that he was the highest vote-getter last month who did not win a seat, but his colleagues chose to solicit applicants for the post.

Another who didn't apply for the job was John Vinson, who unsuccessfully ran for a council seat this fall. Vinson, like Martin, was an opponent of the decision to appoint someone to fill Cabaldon's former council seat when Cabaldon moved to the new mayor's seat. Vinson, like the local police and fire unions, called for an election instead. The city firefighters' union is in protracted labor negotiations with the city, and helped come up with a reported 1,600 signatures on a petition demanding a special election to fill the vacancy.

But that option was supported only by Councilman Bill Kristoff. Cabaldon, Castillo Pierson and Villegas outvoted him in favor of the appointment process, saying it would result in less distraction from city business and save $35,000 in election costs.

Vinson criticized this council majority at last week's council meeting about losing touch with the people.

"I just basically told them that throughout the campaign, they made a lot of promises about being for the community and how they're behind the community," Vinson told the News-Ledger yesterday. "Oscar Villegas even made the statement in your newspaper that if he 'had to vote for it today' (the day before the council decided), he would vote for an election. There were 1,600 signatures from the community asking for an election, and they totally ignored them and didn't even mention the petition."

But why, unlike Martin, didn't Vinson apply for the post last week?

"I just stood real strong on the fact that everybody who sits up there on the council ought to be put up there by the people," commented Vinson.

Cabaldon said he didn't "ignore" the petitions.

"It wasn't a case of ignoring the signatures," he told the News-Ledger. "The petition and public testimony and letters and emails from all sides of the issue were all part of the decision that had to be made. There's a reason why (the appointment process) is used the same way by every other community in the region. And the vast majority of the community comments I've received are from people who agree with the decision we made, even if they didn't agree in the beginning."

After the council's 3-1 split on December 1 in favor of using the appointment process instead of calling for an election, City Clerk Helen Kanowsky worked with county officials to send a notice of the vacancy to the household of every registered voter in town.

The notices went into the mail the next day, and the county "just charged us for paper and postage -- they didn't charge us for printing costs or staff time, so it was only about $2,500."

Partly because of this mass mailing, 32 people turned in applications -- and that was more than the number of candidates for all the seats in the last few city council election years put together.

"The response was inspirational," commented Mayor Cabaldon. "Even with all the growth and change in our community, there is still a

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Holiday food baskets face a glitch

■ Sponsor pulls out; volunteers wonder how to pay for the poultry

By Steve Marschke
News-Ledger Editor

Before yesterday afternoon, Helena Helmold's biggest problem seemed to be finding enough needy West Sacramento families to sign up to receive free holiday food baskets from the West Sacramento Christmas Basket Project. Then she got some bad news.

"I just found out about ten minutes ago that the sponsor who usually gives us about $5,000 every year isn't doing anything for anybody this year," Helmold reported Tuesday. "We already have the turkeys, chickens and milk ordered from Safeway, which gives us a really big discount. But now we're about $3,000 short. If we had to go out today and buy these things, we couldn't do it."

Helmold is director of the Christmas Basket Project, which involves countless volunteers as well as local businesses, churches and community organizations. The contributors all help to put together a holiday basket of food for those who can't afford to feed themselves. Large families get a turkey in their basket. Smaller families get a whole chicken with their trimmings. Sometimes reaching over 1,000 people at Christmas-time, she anticipates about 700 clients for the program this year.

Volunteers Renee Green, Katie Schultz and Jessica Dahill. Schultz, 14, and Dahill, 17, are students at River City High School who receive community service credit for putting in eight hours of volunteer work for the Christmas Basket Project.

"They haven't come in to sign up like before," said Helmold.

But those 700 people will get their food baskets on December 20 and 21 at the ILWU Hall, 4th and F streets. And a sister-project involving the California School Boards Association will also distribute holiday toys to needy kids 12 and under. The toys will go to the kids' parents on December 22 -- in time to be wrapped and presented for Christmas.

Helmold and some of her volunteers were hard at work yesterday at Community Lutheran Church, accepting signups and organizing donated food and toys.

One large load of food was collected by a single group -- the young people of Journey Christian Church.

Anyone who can help make up the group's financial shortfall is asked to call her at 372-3360.

More homes than ever in 2004

■ Growth in the West Sac's north quickens, helps city set record housing pace

By Steve Marschke
News-Ledger Editor

This is going to be a record year.

Steve Patek, director of community development for West Sacramento, reports that more housing units were issued building permits in 2004 than in any other year in city history.

"We're at about 1,320 new units as of the end of November," said Patek, "and by the end of this month, it will very likely be close to 1,400."

For a town of about 40,000 people, that kind of housing growth meant an increase of city population approaching about nine percent.

There have been about four years of booming housing construction, said Patek. Each year, about 800-900 new homes have been built in Southport, West Sacramento's lower and largely undeveloped half.

"The difference is the development in the north," said Patek, with developments such as The Rivers (formerly Lighthouse), Capitol Place, Westwood Vista, Harriet Lane (all multi-family housing) and the properties in Washington (near the northern riverfront). We hadn't seen that before."

These northern projects are largely "infill" projects in developed areas, while Southport until recently was largely a blank slate of agriculture and open space.

The new growth has caused some problems, the planning director said.

"We've been playing catch-up, but we will certainly be caught up this summer as far as the Jefferson Blvd. widening project goes, when it's complete. And we have plans (to improve capacity) at areas of Harbor Blvd and Industrial. Then we'll be pretty much on top of it for a few years."

Mayor Christopher Cabaldon said this year's boom "is about what we've been expecting to see for several years -- we've been expecting to see more balance in our growth. In places like Broderick, the waterfront and soon West Capitol Avenue, we've expected to see their share of new development."

What's his perception of the growth pain?

"We are experiencing 'extreme lower back pain' at this moment on Jefferson Boulevard," said Cabaldon. "But the quickened pace of new growth in the north is in areas not needing new infrastructure. Growth near the riverfront is relying on roads that were widened years ago."

'Lower Northwest Interceptor Project':

Gas main mishap closes Jefferson Blvd.

Street closures on Friday in the Jefferson Boulevard/Lake Washington Boulevard area of "Southport" in West Sacramento on Friday resulted from a tunneling machine striking a gas main by mistake.

The gas line at about 3 p.m. disrupted the afternoon commute and roads were not cleared until the next day as PG&E crews worked to fix the gas line. No one was injured in the mishap.

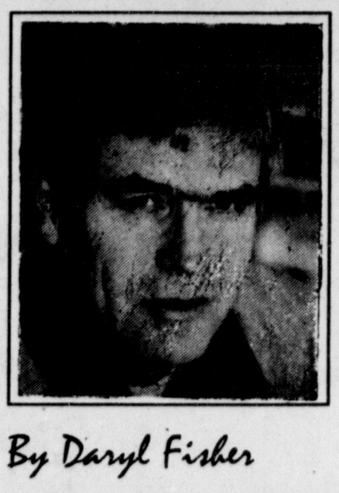
Patty Ransdell, a spokesperson for the Lower Northwest Interceptor Project, said a tunneling machine was working under Jefferson when it struck the main.

"They evacuated the construction crews immediately, brought in the fire department and had PG&E come out right away to begin repairs."

The Lower Northwest Interceptor Project involves the construction of a new sewage pipeline to serve Natomas, come through West Sacramento and then return to Sacramento County and the county's treatment plant. West Sacramento will hook up to the pipeline and discontinue its own sewage treatment operations when the project is complete.

'Parents on strike': seems like a good idea to me

My Back Pages



By Daryl Fisher

As some of you may have recently seen on one or more of the evening news channels, a married couple living in Enterprise, Florida have gone on strike to protest the irresponsibility of their two teenage children.

The couple, Cat and Harlan Barnard, are apparently fed up with getting no respect or help from their 17-year-old son, Benjamin, and their 12-year-old daughter, Kit, and they have finally decided to do something about it. They moved out of their house and into a domed tent which they set up on their front driveway and have also refused to do any cooking, cleaning and driving for their children. They have even posted signs on their front yard which read "Parents on Strike" and "Seeking Cooperation and Respect" and have vowed not to call off their strike until they start to see some positive changes in their children's behavior. Reports say that passers-by (many of them parents themselves) are waving to them and shouting out words of encouragement.

"If you ask me," said a friend of mine who has three children of his own, "that couple deserves a medal!"

"My wife and I actually tried to do something like that about a decade or so ago -- when most of our kids were in their teenage years," I said.

"Really? You went on strike?"

"Oh no, it wasn't anything as dramatic as that, but we did sit them all down and tell them they were a bunch of lazy slobs and that if they didn't immediately change their ways there would be hell to pay."

"And they didn't believe a word of it, right?"

"Right."

"Well," said my friend, "when I tell my kids that they have to start being more responsible and at least help around the house a bit it usually just goes in one ear and other the other. They've heard my `as long as you live under my roof' speech so many times that they just tune me out now."

"My kids were actually pretty clever when it came to getting out of doing any chores," I said.

"How so?"

"Well, they would turn the whole conversation into a fairness issue?"

"A fairness issue?"

"Yeah, for instance, if I told my middle son that I wanted him to rake the leaves, he would remind me that I had never made my oldest son do it, which was true, because I was younger then and hadn't got sick of raking all the leaves myself yet. In other words, if I couldn't firmly establish that my older children had been required to do the exact same thing I was asking my younger children to do, I was being unfair."

"Geez, it almost sounds like they were unionized."

"Exactly," I agreed. "Plus, when I was lucky enough to actually get them to do some work around the house, the chores had to be all evened out in terms of the expenditure of energy that was going to be required, which was almost impossible to do."

"What do you mean?"

"Well, for instance, in our house, vacuuming was considered a more difficult job than emptying the dishwasher -- and cleaning one's room was more time consuming than dusting. So, if I told my oldest son to vacuum and my youngest son to dust, the oldest one would scream bloody murder that I was not only being unfair in my tasking of the chores, but that I was deliberately giving out the cushy jobs to the kids I loved the most."

"Oh, wow," said my friend with a look of horror on his face, "they've really got you when they use that argument -- you know, that you love one of them more than you do the other."

"Exactly. And they know it! And you want to know another thing kids nowadays know, too?"

"Sure."

"They know that the longer than can keep you just talking about doing the chores, the more likely the chance is that you will just get fed up with the whole conversation and do the work yourself."

"So, Daryl," asked my friend with sincerity, "tell me, is it just my imagination, or is this generation the laziest generation to ever come down the pike or what? I mean, all they seem to want to do is play video games, avoid chores, barely pass their school classes, sleep until noon, mooch off their parents, run up credit card debt, and never take responsibility for anything, especially their own decisions."

"Well," I said, "what I do every time I start feeling like that is get out this old philosophy book that I was required to read way back when I was in college."

"Why?"

"Because there's this wonderful quote in there -- I once had it memorized -- from this great philosopher who was absolutely sure that the world as he knew it was going to hell in a handbasket because it was being entrusted to a new generation of lazy, foul-mouthed, poorly educated, unwilling-to-sacrifice young men and women who no longer had any respect for hard work, decency, religion, the rule of law, or their parents."

"So, was he an American philosopher."

"No, he was Socrates."

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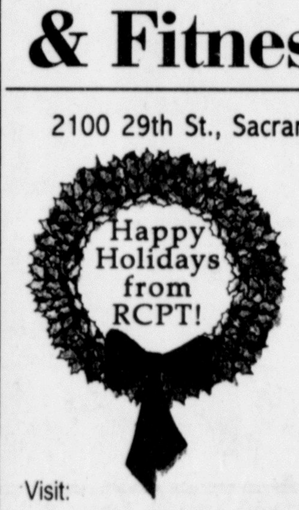

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Opinion submissions: Letters to the Editor on topics of local interest are welcome. They must be signed, original, and must include the author's telephone number and address for verification. Letters should be brief and may be edited for length or objectionable or libelous content. Deadline is Friday before publication, and letters may be mailed or dropped off at the *News-Ledger* office.
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Obituaries

Gary A. Ponciano

Gary Ponciano passed away in Sacramento at the age of 60 on December 3, 2004 from complications of diabetes and cancer. He was born on October 20, 1944 in Chico, California and was the son of the late Antone and Frances Ponciano.

Gary retired from General Services with the State of California in 1992 where he was employed for 11 years. His previous employment was with Palm Iron & Bridge Works as a iron fabricator and certified welder for 11 years. He served in the U.S. Army from 1965 to 1967 and was a Vietnam veteran. He was a resident of West Sacramento for approximately 40 years.

Gary is survived by his wife, Barbara, of West Sacramento; son Gary Jr., and daughter-in-law Betsy of Lake Almanor, CA; daughter Regina and son-in-law Adrian Owings of West Sacramento; grandchildren Gary, Austin, Travis, and Kiara; two brothers, Tony and Bill Ponciano; and one sister, Barbara Hawkins.

Family and friends are invited to memorial services which will be held on December 17, 2004 at 2 p.m. in the River Cities Funeral Chapel at 910 Soule Street in West Sacramento.

Phoebe Ellen McGowan

Phoebe McGowan passed away at the age of 86 in Sacramento on December 3, 2004. She was the beloved wife of the late V.C. "Mac" McGowan; the loving mother of Jane (Jeffrey) Jenkins, Mary Sessarego, Mike (Sue) McGowan, Virginia (Mike Goss) McGowan, Margaret Raley and Nora (Flynn) McDowell; the dear sister of John B. Hardin and Judy A. Jordan; the devoted grandmother of Mia, Katharine, Rebecca, Carrie, Timothy and Katharine Elizabeth; and great grandmother of Isabella, Phoebe Mae, Linden and McKenna. She was raised in Sequoia National Park and was a 50 year resident of West Sacramento.

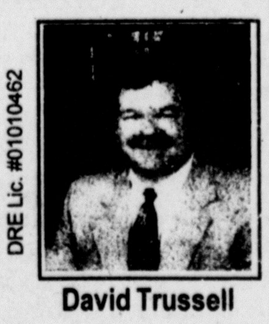
Phoebe was a proud graduate of Stanford University School of Nursing and was very active in numerous community activities, including East Yolo Friends of the Library, various PTA's, The Order of Eastern Star, Soroptimist of West Sacramento, and was a deacon of her church. She was also active with her husband in running the family business, V.C. McGowan Concessions & Capital Speedway.

The entire family extends a special thank you for the tender loving care Phoebe received from the staff of Gramercy Court. They also wish to thank Dr. Kenneth Weisner for his devoted care to Phoebe.

Memorial services were held on December 10, 2004 in West Sacramento's Trinity Presby-

Please see OBITUARIES, p. 4

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



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SPORTS

SPORTS INSIDER

By Richard Novoa

This is going to be a great week for sports fans with start of the College bowl season on Tuesday night and three NFL games on Saturday night. The Steelers will play the G-Men in morning followed by the Niners and Redskins and close the day with the Falcons hosting the Panthers in a late night ESPN (5:30 p.m.) game.

Kings Korner

The Kings (14-6) lost again to the Minnesota Timberwolves last Friday night but the boys did manage to pull out a victory over the depleted Indiana Pacers. The Kings needed overtime to beat the Pacers after turning over the basketball 24 times. The Kings are now 5-5 in road games.

After playing the Bucks on Tuesday night the Kings will return to the friendly confines of the Arco to host the Los Angeles Lakers (TNT) on Thursday night. Kobe will bring his new soap opera show to Sacramento in front of a National TV audience.

Week 15 in the NFL

The 49ers won their second game of the season and are now tied with Miami in the race for the No. 1 draft pick. The Niners, who were leading the Cardinals 28-3, won the game 31-28 in overtime. USC's Heisman's trophy winning quarterback Matt Leinart is considering returning to the Trojan's for his senior year. His return will help take the pressure off the 49ers coaching staff, would have been forced in selecting the top-notch quarterback.

The good news might be the firing of coach Dennis Erickson. Erickson and his staff are under fire from owner John York. The rumor mill has Ole Miss courting Erickson for their head coach job. The 49ers will host the Washington Redskins at 2 p.m. next Sunday at Monster Park.

The Oakland Raiders were abused in Atlanta 35-10 by the division-winning Falcons and are now eliminated from any playoff thoughts. The Raiders will play next Sunday at home against Tennessee so expect another Silver and Blackout.

This week I like the Chargers in Cleveland while the Rams bounce back to whip the Cardinals in Arizona and the Packers cage the Jags. On Monday night Miami will lose to New England but cover the (10-½) points.

Major League Baseball

The San Francisco Giants are still looking for another outfielder but they couldn't pass on signing another catcher. The Giants signed three time gold glove Matt Matheny to a three-year deal worth around $10.5 million. The G-Men still have catcher, A.J. Pierzynski under contract so look for the hard-hitting catcher to be traded. Matheny, 34, is lifetime .247 hitter and mediocre power hitter but an excellent defensive player.

The Oakland A's are still trying to unload pitcher Tim Hudson on Barry Zito. The Dodgers are talking with Hudson while the Baltimore Orioles are very interested in Zito.

The A's are trimming down their payroll again!

The Red Sox and Yankees are going toe-to-toe for the pitching services of Pedro Martinez but the Mets are rumored to be the front-runner for the 33-year-old Martinez. The Mets are also trying to trade for Sammy Sosa, Manny Ramirez or any other big name player to try and fill the empty seats at Shea Stadium. The baseball winter meetings are getting hot.

Boxing

A paid crowd of 2,400 cheered on local light height Michael Simms to his eighth round technical knockout of Uganda's Joseph Kiwanuka. Simms, who dominated the entire bout, now wants to fight Felix Cora Jr. for the U.S. Boxing Association cruiserweight championship. The next Arco Arena boxing card is slated for February 3rd featuring Olympic lightweight Vicente Escobedo of Woodland.

Heavy weight, Vitali Klischko knockout Danny Williams last Saturday in Las Vegas and is now the peoples true heavy weight champion. Klischko record 35 wins, 2 losses with 34 KO's.

See ya next week!

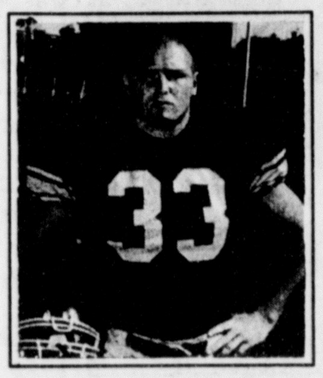
***

You have a lifetime to work, but children are only young once.

—Polish proverb

***

River City grad gets scholarship from Nevada-Reno



River City High School alum Jason DeMars has verbally accepted a full football scholarship to attend the University of Nevada, Reno, announced that school's head coach, Chris Ault.

DeMars was an all-league performer at River City High School and excelled the past two years as a middle linebacker for the Sacramento City College Panthers. He is expected to compete for a starting position with the U.N.R. Wolfpack.

DeMars will officially enroll at U.R.N. next fall after he has completed his Associate of Arts Degree at S.C.C.

"We are all really happy for Jason," said River City High School Coach Brian Watkins. "It's nice to see him rewarded for all the hard work he has put into becoming a very fine football player."

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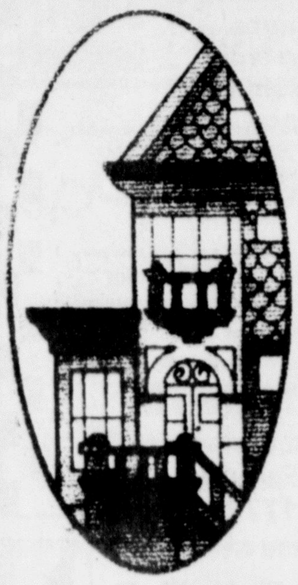

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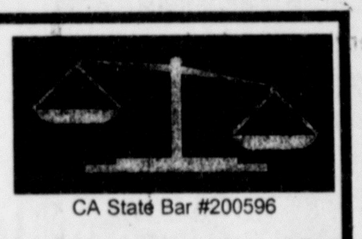

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Sports QUIZ
by Chris Richcreek

1. Who was the oldest manager in All-Star Game history before 73-year-old Jack McKeon led the National League in the 2004 game?
2. Who was the last pitcher to toss 300-plus innings for a season?
3. Whose record did Indianapolis' Mike Vanderjagt break when he hit his 41st consecutive field goal in 2003?
4. Four times a Florida school has reached the Final Four in men's Division One basketball. Name them.
5. Who has won more Norris Trophies as top NHL defenseman — Chris Chelios or Brian Leetch?
6. What year did Terry Labonte run his first NASCAR Cup race?
7. Who was the first male tennis player in the Open era to win his first four Grand Slam finals?

Please see answers P. 11

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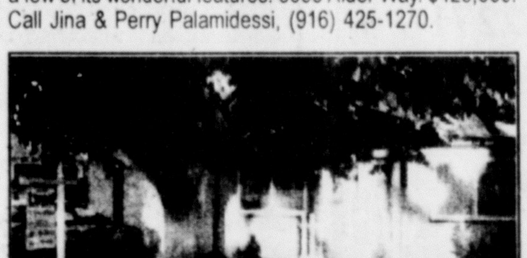
CUTE little 2 bedroom home on gorgeous half-acre lot! Tile roof, newer AC, wood floors under carpet, detached 2-car garage & spacious family room addition area are just a few of its wonderful features! 3066 Alder Way. $425,000. Call Jina & Perry Palamidessi, (916) 425-1270.



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Large state streets home -- unique 2-story, perfect for the entire family. This 4 bedroom, 3 bath home includes central heat & air & a built-in pool! Priced right for a quick sale! 1934 Carolina Ave., $312,500. Call Chris Palamidessi, (916) 834-7003.

Cute & clean little 3 bedroom, 2 bath home with lots of potential. Perfect for first-time buyer or investment opportunity! Newer kitchen, spacious family room, your own private orange grove! Better hurry! $245,000, 622 James Street. Call Jina & Perry Palamidessi, (916) 425-1270.

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FEATURED HOMES:

3536 Tortola Rd: Relax in the peaceful tranquility of your beautifully landscaped yard, with wood deck, gazebo, raised beds & gorgeous koi pond with waterfall! Oh -- the house? Absolutely wonderful 2-3 bed, 2 baths, with just as many fabulous features! $375,000. Call Jina & Perry, 425-1270.

ENORMOUS GREAT ROOM concept with beautiful brick fireplace is focus of this spacious home on corner lot with large yard & RV access! Brand new garage door, freshly painted exterior, fenced yard. Lots of curb appeal. Better hurry! 700 Julian Dr., $264,900. Perry & Jina: 425-1270.

This week in local government

The **West Sacramento City Council** will meet at 7 p.m. tonight in public session at city hall, 1110 West Capitol Avenue.

Among the agenda items are project contracts including the demolition of the Siesta Inn and 1240 Merkley Avenue sites, consideration of a "Home Improvement Holiday" to allow a period for free building permits next spring, and consideration of a city comprehensive strategy for economic development.

The **city council** will hold a special meeting Thursday evening at 5:30 p.m. to publicly interview each of ten final candidates for the remaining term of a vacant city council seat.

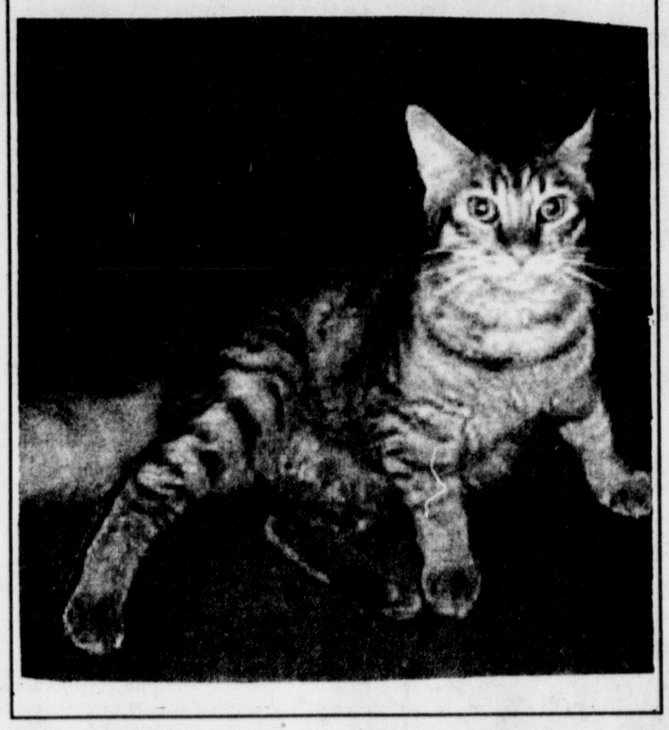
The **West Sacramento Planning Commission** will meet at 6 p.m. on Thursday at city hall in public session.

Agenda items include a lot line adjustment for Agrium (formerly Unocal) on Channel Drive; a development agreement for Bridgeway Lakes II; a tentative parcel map for 3245 Marshall Road and other items.

The commission's scheduled January 6 meeting has been canceled; it will meet next on January 20 at 6 p.m. in city hall.

The school board of the **Washington Unified School District** plans a special meeting Monday at 6 p.m. in public session at the district office. Although an agenda has not yet been released, a spokesperson told the News-Ledger that major items on it will include adoption of an interim financial report for the 2004-05 school year, approved budget revisions, fundamental academy educational specifications and discussion of the role of student members of the school board.

Pets of the week



"Romeo" (ID #27221) is a two-year old male orange tabby "who lives up to his name 100 percent," brags a representative from the SPCA.

"Mookie" (27084) is a seven-year old male labrador retriever who is mellow, well-behaved and destined to be someone's loyal companion.

Both animals – as well as a host of other potential roommates -- are available for adoption at the Yolo County Animal Services shelter, 2640 East Gibson Rd. in Woodland. For the shelter's hours or other information, call (530) 668-5287.

The shelter's hours will be limited from Dec. 20 until after the New Year, due to both the holidays and a county budget-cutting office closure.

OBITUARIES from p. 2

terian Church. Private inurnment was at Monument Hill Memorial Park in Woodland. Memorials are preferred to the Sequoia Fund, PO Box 3047, Visalia, CA 93278, the Yolo Adult Day Health Center, 20 North Cottonwood St., Woodland, CA 95696, or Trinity Presbyterian Church.

Mary Martinez-Villescaz

Mary Martinez Villescaz was born on September 14, 1924 and passed away of December 9, 2004.

She was a lifelong resident of West Sacramento.

Visitation will be at River Cities Funeral Chapel, 910 Soule Street, from 1-8 pm on December 15, 2004. A Rosary will be held at River Cities Funeral Chapel at 7 p.m. on December 15, 2004. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. on December 16, 2004 at 10 a.m. in Holy Cross Church in West Sacramento. Following the Mass, at 11:30 a.m., there will be a reception at 944 Anna Street.

Mary will be greatly missed by all those who knew and loved her.

Evaristo Martinez Hernandez

Evaristo Hernandez was born in Mexico on July 15, 1953 and passed away at the UC Davis Medical Center in Sacramento on November 12, 2004. He was a laborer by trade and an eight year resident of Yolo County. No next of kin are known. Burial was in the Woodland Cemetery.

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In every real estate market, there are buyers who make offers far below the current market value. How should you react if your agent brings you one of these "low balls"?
If your home is priced well, you can reject the offer and be reasonably confident a better one will follow. In a "buyer's market," however, you may not have that luxury. Ask your Realtor for advice. Does the buyer really want your house, or will they move on to another property if you make a counter offer? Can they afford a higher price? Are there other ways to close the gap with terms that will help your bottom line? Was your price already on the high side? Think before you 'just say no.'
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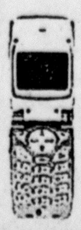

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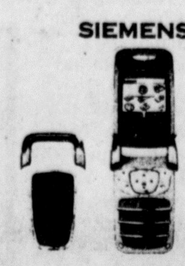

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News from Westfield Elementary

On November 30th Westfield Village Elementary School students and parents celebrated a reading incentive program coordinated by Mrs. Nellie Plasencia, the school's bilingual reading specialist. About 200 students participated, reading over 1,000 books from October 1-22. They came to the celebration in pajamas and with their favorite stuffed animal. They drank hot chocolate and ate cookies donated by Safeway. The school's librarian, Mrs. Barbara Valdez, also read to them. There was also a raffle of prizes donated by Gorman's Stationary of West Sacramento.

On December 1st, Explorit came to the school and presented "Science In Your World". About 70 families came to experience the experiments and investigations set up as a science museum for the night. Parents and children learned about light, geology, electricity, and wind. There were approximately 15 stations with volunteers from California State University in Sacramento and River City High School and Golden State Middle School in West Sacramento.

On December 3rd, 78 Westfield Village 5th grade students went on a field trip to the University of California, Davis Medical Center's central cogeneration power plant, which provides power to the entire UCD Medical Campus. UCD provided box lunches for the students and chaperons. The goal of the field trip was to promote further understanding of science standards as well as exposing underprivileged minority students to future employment opportunities.

New at the library

By Elise McCallan
Arthur F. Turner Branch Library

1212 Merkley Ave.
West Sacramento

The Arthur F. Turner Branch Library has received the following new books:

"The Lone Samurai: The Life of Miyamoto Musashi" by William Scott Wilson.

"Mixed Nuts: America's Love Affair with Comedy Teams from Burns and Allen to Belushi and Aykroyd" by Lawrence J. Epstein.

"Black Kettle: The Cheyenne Chief Who Sought Peace but Found War" by Thom Hatch.

"Home-Alone America: The Hidden Toll of Day Care, Behavioral Drugs, and Other Parent Substitutes" by Mary Eberstadt.

"Running with the Bulls: My Years with the Hemingways" by Valerie Hemingway.

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Alleged heroin importers:

Officers of the Yolo County Narcotics Enforcement Team (YONET) arrested several people recently whom they believe have been supplying heroin to "mid-level dealers" in West Sacramento and nearby areas.

The agency reports that an undercover officer infiltrated local heroin traffickers, and helped arrange several drug buys.

The undercover officer working with other area law enforcement agencies helped arrange for a December 8 deal for one pound of heroin and seven pounds of marijuana, to be brought to West Sacramento by the two San Jose-based suspects.

Under surveillance, the two suspects left their apartment in San Jose with a duffel and drove to a prearranged meeting location at Rite Aid on West Capitol Avenue. Both were then arrested after they parked to wait for the undercover "buyer." A pound of heroin was found underneath the spare tire in their vehicle, and the marijuana was found in the duffel bag.

Bonifacio Duarte, 22, and Rosalio Fajardo, 36, were booked.

Search warrants included the San Jose apartment, where two ounces of cocaine, a handgun, and 19 five-gallon buckets -- each with about three pounds of marijuana -- were found. Another suspect, 18-year old Luis Rendives, was found in the apartment and arrested.

Free building permits in spring?

City building official Bhu Patel will tonight tell the West Sacramento about the concept of a "Home Improvement Holiday" this spring for city residents. The "holiday" has been championed by council member Oscar Villegas.

The holiday would entail a period of free building permits for owner-occupied homes in West Sacramento who want to do minor improvements, mostly within the footprint of an existing home.

The "holiday" would last about six to eight weeks and would, Villegas said earlier, allow people to take advantage of the equity in their home to improve their home's quality.

Patel estimated that about 200 minor building permits are likely to be issued this spring, and losses in city revenues would amount to about $20,000. But better neighborhoods and property values could result, he reported.

Community Concerns

A Day Of Healing

(NAPS)—In the United States, a person dies by suicide every 18 minutes, leaving behind family members, friends and coworkers—"survivors"—to cope with their pain and their questions.

National Survivors of Suicide Day, sponsored by the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP), is an annual commemoration that allows survivors nationwide to join together for support, healing, information and empowerment. Linking over 90 survivor conferences nationwide through a live broadcast, National Survivors of Suicide Day—observed this year on November 20—helps survivors express and understand the powerful emotions they experience.

For more information about National Survivors of Suicide Day, visit www.afsp.org.

Across the Bridge':

Events around the region

Martin Luther King Jr. celebrations

California State University at Sacramento will host *And the Dream Goes On, A Celebration in Song, Word and Dance,* from January 7-16 at the CSUS University Theater located at Shasta Hall, 6000 J Street in Sacramento. Tickets are free but must be picked up 45 minutes before show time. For information about performance times call 557-1999.

The 18th Annual Martin Luther King, Jr. March will be held on January 17th beginning at 8:30 a.m. at the Oak Park Community Center in Sacramento followed by a celebration at the Sacramento Convention Center beginning at 11:30 a.m.

YMCA childcare

Need a fun place for your child to play and learn during the day? Have you considered the YMCA? The YMCA offers licensed childcare for children ages 3 months to 12 years of age. The programs operate five days a week. The cost varies depending on the age of your child. Call 452-9622 ext. 111.

Folsom History Museum

Opening October 23rd and continuing through Feburary of next year the Folsom History Museum will host an extensive exhibit in conjunction with the Sacramento Art Deco Society. Call 985-2707.

FINALISTS from p. 1

deep commitment to public service. People want to help."

Thursday, beginning at 5:30 p.m., Cabaldon will join Kristoff, Villegas and Castillo Pierson in a series of 15-minute interviews of the final 10 candidates at city hall. Although the interviews will constitute a public council meeting and no one can be excluded, each candidate will be asked to remain outside the chambers until he or she is called for an interview.

The 22 people who applied for the vacancy but weren't selected for the final cut were (along with their self-described occupations):

Janice Ballard, grocery store owner; Janie Carter, manager; Walter Cheechov, manager, natural resources conservation service; Richard DaPrato, manager, state BoE; Dominic Franzella, associate, Smart & Final; Donald Gay, Sacramento Municipal Utility District; Kay Giguiere, legal assistant; Martha Guerrero Flammer, legislative advocate; Elise Gyore, secretary, joint legislative audit committee; John Hawkins, retired; Reuben Jimenez, dep. dir., statewide health planning & development department; Dan Kysor, dir., governmental affairs, CA Council of the Blind; Tom Martin, parking enforcement officer; Margaret Martindale, ag teacher (UCD); Danny Moore, attorney; Beverly Randolph, retired state Department of Justice; Robert Randolph, retired federal civil servant; Ryan Rowlands, press orations; Jason Seno, mechanic; Robert Terry, teacher; Valerie Williams, real estate; and Anie Wilson, analyst, California EPA.

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CALIFORNIA COTTAGE: Great opportunity for this 2 bdrm cottage on Maryland Ave., West Sacto. Converted garage for extra room, or change it back to garage. Newer thermal pane windows, central heat/air, screened patio room, newer roof, updated bathroom. Super location: walk to bus, shopping, parks -- but if you're reading this, you already know that! Special financing up to 100% $279,999. Pick up the phone and call JOHN KANE - Parkside Property, (916) 373-5300.

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Lost cat: small gray striped kitten, lost in Broderick area near Charles Street. Call 372-0264.
20

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—Goethe

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PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? We can help! We specialize in matching families with birthmothers nationwide. Toll free 24 hours a day 866-921-0565. One True Gift Adoptions. (Cal-SCAN)

AUTOMOBILES

AAA RATED DONATION - Donate your car, boat or real estate. IRS tax deductible. Free pick-up/tow. Any model/condition. Help underprivileged Children 1-800-598-9211 Outreachcenter.org (Cal-SCAN)

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A REALISTIC $10K/Month Potential Income. Work from Home. Training provided. Direct Sales & Marketing. $49.95 Investment. 24 hour info message. Call (888) 376-5215. (Cal-SCAN)

ALL CASH CANDY Route. Do you earn $800 in a day? Your own local candy route. Includes 30 machines and candy. All for $9,995. MultiVend, LLC 880 Grand Blvd., Deer Park, NY 11729. 1-800-814-6047. (Cal-SCAN)

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DRIVER - DRIVE REGIONAL! Over-the-Road - lots of miles. Great company & benefits. www.primeinc.com 1-800-771-6318. (Cal-SCAN)

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LAST CHANCE TO OWN! New Mexico Mountains. 30 acres - $19,900. Gorgeous grasslands, mature tree cover, 6,300 ft. elevation. Mountain views & year round roads. Perfect for horse lovers. Adjacent to national forest. Excellent financing. Call today! This won't last! 1-888-292-9711. (Cal-SCAN)

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UNDELIVERED BUILDINGS. 25x36, 30x42, 40x50, 40x80, 60x120x16. Will sell for balance owed. Brand new. Never erected. Take your pick we'll cover freight. Toll free 866-660-2221. (Cal-SCAN)

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Or advertise in the News-Ledger's local classified ad section for only $12 per month (up to 25 words). Call 371-8030.

OPINION

Letters to the Editor

Thanks

We would like to thank you for the wonderfully written front page story on our first presentation, "The Gift" (News-Ledger Dec. 1). You provided your readers with a flavor for the performers as well as the work, determination and struggles it takes from all of our volunteers to put on a show for the first time.

Unfortunately, we were remiss in not letting everyone know that this production would not have been possible without the very generous contribution of Andy Wallace and Wallace-Kuhl & Associates. Their support of the West Sacramento Community Theater, Inc., is but one example of their long standing commitment to West Sacramento. We greatly appreciate their vision and sponsorship and hope that others in West Sacramento's growing business community will start or continue to support worthy community-based volunteer organizations.

DAVID B. SEALS
MARK JOHANNESSEN
GAIL KLAUER
CINDY SCHMIDT
PENNY MICELI
ALLEESA GREENFELD
LEN STICKLAND
West Sacramento Community Theater, Inc.

The "Cabaldonization" of West Sac

My handiest compilation of the meanings of words defines "Nude *n.*" as "1. An unclothed human figure, especially an artistic representation." However, considering the recent and not-so-recent actions of most of our current fearless leaders, I've been sadly forced to define "politically nude" as a naked grab for power. Unfortunately, I've been observing the tell-tale signs for quite some time now. What with the apparent brown spots on not only our newly elected mayor's nose (possibly Heather caused?), but on the noses of his two most reliable vote-givers as well, it seems as if what we are not so silently witnessing is the apparent "Cabaldonisation" of West Sacramento. It looks like, and to many more than just me, that this is a well orchestrated long-range plan being executed by our mayor.

Anyone who's been in this town for more than a minute knows, without a doubt, that I'm no union flack, as the saying goes, let alone some bleeding heart liberal, but, on this issue, I must take the side of not only the unions, but the News-Ledger's very own "Commentarian without Portfolio", Mr. Lowell, regarding the $35,000 price tag for a special election. Although I firmly believe that no politician would knowingly avoid spending the public's money on anything worthwhile; I'm afraid that the definition of "worthwhile" may be quite divergent between the people and their elected representatives. For example: Just how much is it going to cost to "save" $35k on a special election? Not only in the short, but the long run as well. Whatever happened to "Bear any burden -- Pay any price...?" Bring on the petition.

J. BESHARIAN
West Sacramento

With appreciation

I want to take this opportunity to thank the following volunteers for their assistance in making our annual COOKIE DECORATING PROGRAM a success.

Some of these volunteers are members of our local 4-H organization who continue to support our library and activities.

Amanda Aragon, Bethany Aragon, Pablo Gonzalez, JoAna Gonzalez, Ananita Gonzalez, Brandi Stafford, Brady Orndoff, Megean Horn and Gabino Ponce.

CATHY LORDA
Children's Librarian
Arthur F. Turner
Branch Library

Spread some

Save *Money* and *Energy* this Holiday Season!

Lighting
❄ Replace your old, dangerous strings of Holiday lights with strings of *energy efficient LED Holiday lights* that can *save you over $950* over ten years

Heating
❄ Set your central heating system at 55 or lower when you leave the house and use a space heater to *directly heat people, not spaces.*

Appliances
❄ When purchasing Holiday gifts for friends and family, *consider giving the gift of energy savings* with an Energy Star appliance.

See LED Holiday lights in Action!
Visit our Holiday Light display at 509 4th Street, Suite A in Downtown Davis

For more information visit www.yoloenergy.org or call (530) 753-9337

YEEP

YEEP is funded by California ratepayers under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission.

Easy as 1 2 3
1. Call 617-4620
2. We will send you a Trees for Tomorrow Grant Application package.
3. If your tree planting application is approved, you will be provided, up to 50 trees, stakes and help from our arborist to make your tree planting a success.

Give the Gift of a Lifetime this Holiday Season

Free trees, stakes and tree education are available for your school, church or other community organization.

Contact us for a grant application which will give you all the information you need to create a successful tree planting project.

*For a **Greener** West Sacramento*

WEST SACRAMENTO TREE PROGRAM

1110 West Capitol Avenue
West Sacramento, Ca 95691
Phone: 916-617-4620
Fax: 916-372-5329
E-mail: dena.kirtley@ci.west-sacramento.ca.us

NOTICE OF PETITION TO ADMINISTER ESTATE OF DIANNE LEA JOHNSON CASE NUMBER PB04-294

To all heirs, beneficiaries, creditors, contingent creditors, and persons who may otherwise be interested in the will or estate, or both, of Dianne Lea Drew and Dianne Lea Johnson:

A PETITION FOR PROBATE has been filed by Peggy L. Drew in the Superior Court of California, County of Yolo.

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE requests that Peggy L. Drew be appointed as personal representative to administer the estate of the decedent.

THE PETITION requests authority to administer the estate under the Independent Administration of Estates Act. (This authority will allow the personal representative to take many actions without obtaining court approval. Before taking certain very important actions, however, the personal representative will be required to give notice to interested persons unless they have waived notice or consented to the proposed action.) The independent administration authority will be granted unless an interested person files an objection to the petition and shows good cause why the court should not grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition will be held on Feb. 3, 2005, at 8:30 a.m. in Dept. 11, 812 Court Street, Woodland, CA 95695.

IF YOU OBJECT to the granting of the petition, you should appear at the hearing and state your objections or file written objections with the court before the hearing. Your appearance may be in person or by your attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a contingent creditor of the deceased, you must file your claim with the court and mail a copy to the personal representative appointed by the court within four months from the date of first issuance of letters as provided in Probate Code section 9100. The time for filing claims will not expire before four months from the hearing date noticed above.

YOU MAY EXAMINE the file kept by the court. If you are a person interested in the estate, you may file with the court a "Request for Special Notice" (form DE-154) of the filing of an inventory and appraisal of estate assets or of any petition or account as provided in Probate Code section 1250. A "Request for Special Notice" form is available from the court clerk.

Petitioner:
/s/Peggy Drew
1920 Proctor Ave
West Sacramento CA 95691
(916) 371-3720
Dec 15 22 29

WEST SACRAMENTO PLANNING COMMISSION NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

The January 6, 2005 meeting of the West Sacramento Planning Commission has been cancelled.

The next meeting of the Planning Commission will be held on January 20, 2005, at 6:00 p.m. at City Hall, 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento.

Dec 15

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed Dec. 8, 2004
File No. 2004-1245

The following person is doing business as Car-Mil Partnership, 24640 Co. Rd. 22A, Esparto:

J. Randy & Sharon Miller, 24710 Co. Rd. 22A, Esparto CA 95627; Brian & Amy Carpenter, 24640 Co. Rd. 22A, Esparto CA 95627.

This business is conducted by a General Partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 5/3/02.

/s/Sharon Miller

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, Clerk
Date: Dec. 8, 2004
by: /s/Linda Smith, Deputy Clerk
Dec 15 22 29 Jan 5

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed Oct. 27, 2004
File No. 2004-1088

The following person is doing business as Joes Trucking, 1084 Power Circle, Woodland CA 95695:

Joseph R. Chand, same address.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 10/27/04.

/s/Joseph R. Chand

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, Clerk
Date: Dec. 8, 2004
by: /s/Linda Smith, Deputy Clerk
Dec 15 22 29 Jan 5

Statement of Abandonment of Use of Fictitious Business Name
Nov. 12 2004
2002-443

The following persons have abandoned the use of the Fictitious Business Name Gene K & Carrol A. Cartwright DBA Sherwood Harbor Marina & RV Park, located at 3505 S. River Road, West Sacramento CA 95691.

The fictitious business name referred to above was filed in Yolo County on 11/2/1983.

Gene K. Cartwright and Carrol A. Cartwright, 3505 S. River Rd., W. Sac. CA 95691.

This business was conducted by husband and wife.

Nov. 12, 2004
/s/Ava Woodard, Deupty Clerk
State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, County Clerk/Recorder
Dec 8 15 22 29

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed Nov. 19, 2004
File No. 2004-1170

The following person is doing business as The Panorama House, 335 Metro Lane, West Sacramento CA 95605:

Amy Joy Flanigan and Paul Flanigan, 335 Metro Ln, West Sacramento CA 95605.

This business is conducted by Husband and Wife.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/19/04.

/s/Amy Joy Flanigan
/s/Paul Flanigan

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, Clerk
Date: Nov. 19, 2004
by: /s/ , Deputy Clerk
Dec 8 15 22 29

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed Nov 23, 2004
File No. 2004-1186

The following person is doing business as Timberwood Custom Cabinets, 2959 Promenade, Ste. 100, West Sacramento CA 95691:

John M. Zonneveld, Jr., 2095 Davis Rd., West Sacramento CA 95691.

This business is conducted by an Individual.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 9/78. Previous fictitious business name number 99-885.

/s/John M. Zonneveld Jr.

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, Clerk
Date: Nov 23, 2004
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk
Dec 8 15 22 29

Fictitious Business Name Statement
Filed Nov 16, 2004
File No. 2004-1158

The following person is doing business as The Wash Mill – Winters, at 211 First Street, Winters CA 95694:

Randy & Sharon Miller, 24710 Co. Rd. 22A, Esparto CA 95627; Brian & Amy Carpenter, same address.

This business is conducted by a General Partnership.

The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on 11/1/04.

/s/Amy Carpenter

I hereby certify that this is a true copy of the original document on file in this office. This certification is true as long as there are no alterations to the document, AND as long as the document is sealed with a red seal.

State of California
County of Yolo
Freddie Oakley, Clerk
Date: Nov. 16, 2004
by: /s/Ava Woodard, Deputy Clerk
Dec 15 22 29 Jan 5

The West Sacramento Planning Commission/City Council will consider adoption of the Mitigated Negative Declaration on January 20, 2005, in the City Council chambers located at 1110 West Capitol Avenue, West Sacramento, CA, 95691 at 6:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard.

Dec 8

their supplies online from reputable companies that make it easy to order. Companies such as Diabetic Care Services (www.diabeticcareservices.com or 1-800-633-7167) provide personal service that enables people living with diabetes to receive supplies with the minimum investment of time and out-of-pocket cost.

(NAPS)—Many people don't realize that the prolonged inactivity of airline trips can trigger a serious health problem called deep vein thrombosis (DVT). DVT can occur when a person is sedentary for long periods of time. Blood clots can form in veins, then detach and travel through the bloodstream to the lungs, blocking the oxygen supply, say experts at the College of American Pathologists. To protect yourself, eat a light meal, and avoid alcoholic beverages, wear support stockings to increase circulation, and take an aspirin. Aspirin acts as a blood thinner, which helps prevent clots.

An estimated one in three adults—70 million Americans—has arthritis, but what is not well understood is that arthritis strikes many more women than men. The Society for Women's Health Research has joined forces with actress, dancer and arthritis sufferer Debbie Allen to launch "Living Well With Arthritis," a public education campaign designed to teach women how to alleviate their arthritis pain and continue leading their active lives. For more information about the campaign or how to diagnose and treat arthritis symptoms effectively, visit www.womenshealthresearch.org.

For blood level maintenance, it is essential for people with diabetes to have their supplies on hand. Fortunately, people with diabetes can order

As we age, the eye's natural lens becomes increasingly yellow, which may provide a defense against potentially damaging high-energy wavelengths of the blue light spectrum. When a cataract develops, requiring the natural lens to be removed, this potential defense is lost. With this lack of filtration, visual disturbances such as increased glare and whites that appear to have a bluish tint can be attributed to increased blue light exposure. Alcon's AcrySof Natural intraocular lens (IOL) is the world's first foldable lens specifically designed to filter high-energy wavelengths of the blue light spectrum. Until Alcon released the technology, the lens inserted after cataract surgery was less effective than the eye's natural ability to filter blue light.

***

Always end the name of your child with a vowel, so that when you yell, the name will carry.
—Bill Cosby

***

Setting a good example for your children takes all the fun out of middle age.
—William Feather

***

PUZZLES & COMICS

Amber Waves

by Dave Phipps

MOM, WHY DOES MOLLY HAVE TO MAKE SUCH A MESS?
SHE'S JUST A BABY. YOU WERE THE SAME WAY ONCE.
OBVIOUSLY SHE HAS ME CONFUSED WITH SOMEONE ELSE.
Ambrwavcscomics@aol.com

R.F.D.

by Mike Marland

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

I JUST SPENT AN HOUR WATCHING THE BEST REALITY SHOW EVER!
OH REALLY, WHAT'S IT CALLED?
MAKING FACES AT THE MIRROR IN OUR BATHROOM!

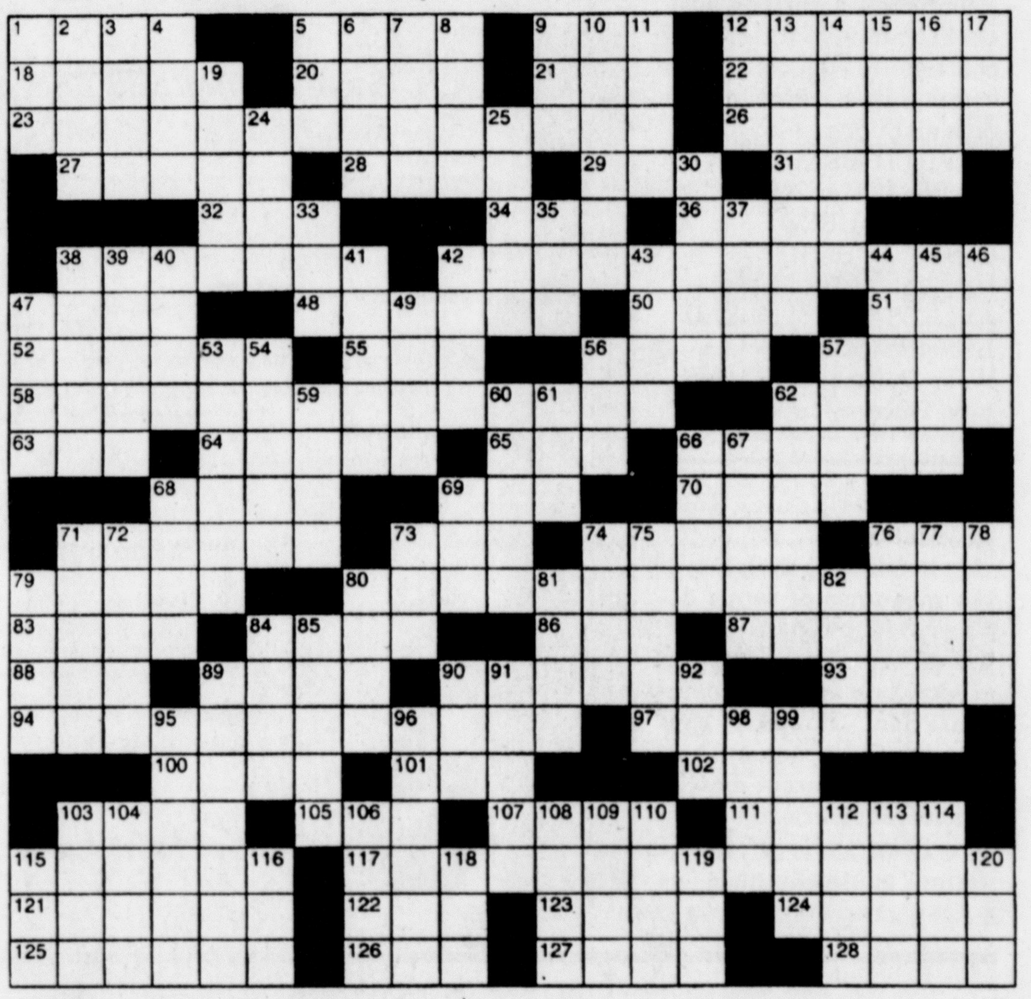
POPEYE
HEY OLIVE OYL
ZZZ
RING
ZZZ... HELLO...
MAY I SPEAK TO MR. J. WELLINGTON WIMPY?
SPEAKING...
SIR! YOU HAVE JUST WON A STAY AT THE BOCA RATON LOCO YOKEL MOTEL ABSOLUTELY FREE!
WITHOUT ANY COST, YOU CAN ENJOY HORSE-BACK RIDING OR GOLF...HIKE...BIKE...SWIM FOR AN ENTIRE WEEK...
...AND ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS CALL THE FOLLOWING 800 NUMBER...
I HAVE TO GET A PENCIL...
ZZZ
WHAT'S HOLDING YOU UP?
THE GUY'S GETTING A PENCIL

Super Crossword

I WITNESS

ACROSS
1 Cheryl of "Charlie's Angels"
5 — ghanouj
9 "Sister —" ('92 film)
12 Rodeo ropes
18 "America's Most Wanted" info
20 Panache
21 Chase away gray
22 Changes
23 Start of a remark by Gene Perret
26 Rice dish
27 Tangle
28 Quahog, e.g.
29 Consumed a knish
31 Cart
32 Altar oath
34 Hair ball?
36 "The — Is High" ('80 hit)
38 Hazard
42 Part 2 of remark
47 Bete noire
48 Reserved
50 Mideast gulf
51 Supp.
52 Way in
55 Lend a hand
56 Noah's eldest
57 Cornmeal concoction
58 Part 3 of remark
62 Surround
63 West ender?
64 Greene of "Bonanza"
65 Author LeShan
66 Picturesque
68 — shui
69 Switchboard abbr.
70 Irish island group
71 Asian island
73 Joanne of "Red River"
74 Cavalry weapon
76 Spare part?
79 French dynast
80 Part 4 of remark
83 — of passage
84 University ordeal
86 Family vehicle
87 A hole near the sole
88 Sten relative
89 Profess
90 Walked off with
93 Pickable
94 Part 5 of remark
97 Act like a mirror
100 Dweeb
101 Empower
102 Dernier —
103 Bear's advice
105 Puppy bark
107 Role for Liz
111 Stout
115 Reach
117 End of remark
121 Hispanic
122 Cover the cake
123 The — Brothers
124 Lofty spaces
125 Exchanged
126 Getz's instrument
127 Sammy or Stubby
128 No sweat

DOWN
1 Chou En- —
2 Charity
3 Anthropologist Fossey
4 Arp's art
5 Role for a rat
6 Baldwin of "Malice"
7 Cry like a baby
8 Novelist Seton
9 "Tobacco Road" character
10 Nosy guy?
11 Try out
12 Drink like a dachshund
13 '92 Disney film
14 Audiophile's equipment
15 Ward of "Sisters"
16 French airport
17 Govt. agency
19 Printer's stroke
24 Robert of "Rhapsody in Blue"
25 Fireplace fragment
30 Practice piece
33 Vintage
35 Manipulate
37 Bookkeeping entry
38 Dad-to-be, often
39 Like Machu Picchu
40 Rock hound?
41 Find out
42 Designer Gernreich
43 Cowardly Lion Bert
44 Mother Judd
45 Jerkin
46 Draft animals
47 Movie piglet
49 Boxer Tyson
53 Taciturn
54 Teatime treat
56 Where the gulls are
57 Quaker colonist
59 As a result
60 Link
61 Banned pesticide
62 Cordial
66 "The Thief of Bagdad" star
67 Minos' realm
68 Manumit
69 Misjudge
71 Feltlike fabric
72 Eye-related
73 Singer Shannon
74 Ginger cookie
75 One of the Yokums
76 Antique
77 Like a lummox
78 — the bullet
79 Muck
80 Dupe
81 Roman poet
82 Present
84 Mind — matter
85 Actor McDowall
89 "Sweet —" (1903 song)
90 Heifer or hen
91 Good speller?
92 Cal. page
95 Like mother-of-pearl, often
96 Llama kin
98 Starting at
99 Neighbor of Niger
103 Christmas-tree topper
104 Singer James
106 Mascagni opera
108 Plumbing problem
109 "Cope Book" aunt
110 Heed
112 Punta del —
113 Blood components
114 "— Coming" ('69 song)
115 Cockpit fig.
116 Head motion
118 John Ritter's dad
119 Language suffix
120 Weldon or Wray



Rational Numbers

by Linda Thistle

Using the clues, simple arithmetic, and a little logic, place a single digit (0 to 9) in each empty box in the diagram. To help you get started, one digit has been entered in the diagram.

ACROSS
1. Consecutive odd digits in descending order
3. 19-Across times 2-Down
5. 3-Down minus 14-Down
7. Three times 10-Down
9. Four times 18-Across
11. Seven times 8-Down
14. Three times 3-Across
17. Two times 15-Down
18. 5-Across times 6-Down
19. Nine more than 4-Down

DOWN
1. 12-Down plus 14-Down
2. Digits of 16-Down reversed
3. Digits of 11-Down reversed
4. Forty less than 17-Across
5. Three more than 5-Across
6. One-half of 14-Down
8. 17-Across plus 5-Down
10. 1-Across times 13-Down
11. Four more than 2-Down
12. Consecutive digits in ascending order
13. Five less than 1-Down
14. 16-Down minus 1-Across
15. 1-Across plus 2-Down
16. 19-Across minus 6-Down

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See answers Page 11

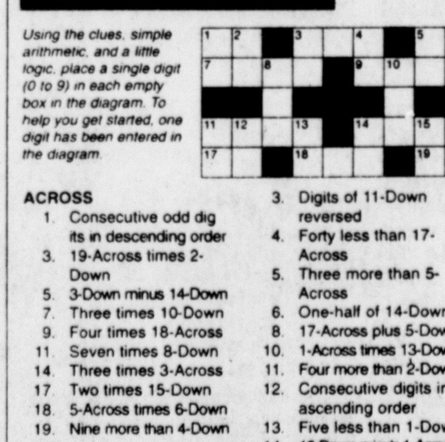
MAGIC MAZE ● HOW —

Q I K E U T B Y V R O L I F C
Z W T R Q O A N K I F C Z W U
R P M E O J Y H S H E C Z X U
S Q N M S W E E T I T I S L J
G E C O H Z S X R T V T R N P
N L J C D T H G A A U E I C A
Y W V T I U R R N P D O N I L
K I G S E C O A G I D L B N B
Z X E U R T W Y E U H U O A S
R O P O M A L W O N J T I C G
G E D B A Y F Y X D O W U T S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

About that
Are you
Can I
Come
Dare you
Do you do
Far
Goes it
Old are you
On earth
Strange
Sweet it is
Things work
True
You doin'

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

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2	4	2	7	2	4	7	4	6	2	5	6	4
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DINING, TRAVEL & ENTERTAINMENT

TEST DRIVE by Greg Zyla

2004 Volkswagen Touareg V-8
Base price: $42,640
Price as tested: $53,205

This week we test drive Volkswagen's 2004 V-8 Touareg (pronounced Tour-egg). Touareg is a feature-oriented SUV that is built both for passenger comfort and off-roading ability. It also costs $53,205, so it's a long way from the $34,000 V-6 model we tested at the beginning of the year.

Although only slightly longer than the Passat wagon, Touareg stands tall and carries its 5,300 pounds well. For off-roading, it features a revolutionary all-wheel-drive system, locking center and rear differentials and a myriad of electronic wonders that do everything from holding the vehicle in place on steep inclines to controlling its acceleration on treacherous descents. Volkswagen also "sealed" all the doors, allowing the vehicle to go though deep water without fear of flooding the passenger compartment. If you're buying an SUV for serious off-roading yet also want to satisfy family needs, Touareg may well be your best bet.

What pushes the price of the Touareg above $50,000 is a $7,600 Premium Plus package, which includes a high-tech navigation/sound system; 12-channel, 11-speaker audio; Xenon lights; four-corner air suspension (neat); leather; CD changer; and four-zone climate control. The air suspension system dampens out road imperfections without sacrificing too much of the Touareg's off-road capabilities.

Under the hood sits a 4.2-liter V-8 putting out 310 horsepower. It rumbles of high performance when the accelerator is depressed, offering great low-end torque with excellent higher rpm passing abilities. Both the V-6 and V-8 models come equipped with a four-wheel independent steel-spring suspension that produces a firm and controlled ride. The six-speed automatic transmission with Tiptronic mode works very well and shifts at the right points even when left in the full automatic gate. Zero to 60 acceleration is a brisk 7.6 seconds.

Unlike other all-wheel-drive systems that simply shift power from front to rear, the Touareg's 4MOTION all-wheel drive is capable of independently sending power to each wheel in varying degrees. This gives the Touareg very good handling ability, allowing forward motion even if one wheel loses traction. In addition, the optional height-adjustable air suspension allows you to increase the Touareg's ground clearance to more than 11 inches. Combine this with the short front and rear overhangs, and you have a luxury SUV that is "mountain ready."

With seating for five (no third-row seat), Touareg offers a huge rear cargo area. We loaded up the vehicle with numerous items on several shopping sprees, and always had room to spare.

Safety is another of the Touareg's strong suits, with standard front side-impact airbags, a side-airbag curtain, anti-lock brakes, traction control and three-point safety belts at all seating positions. Touareg's upscale standard features include memory-function 12-way heated power seats with power lumbar support, rain sensor windshield wipers, auto dimming rear- and side-view mirrors, electronic parking assist, five power outlets, vehicle alarms and 18-inch alloy wheels and tires.

2004 Volkswagen Touareg V-8

Likes: Looks, build quality, off-road capabilities.

Dislikes: Fuel mileage.

Important numbers include a 26.4-gallon fuel tank, 112.4-inch wheelbase, and 31 to 71 cubic feet of cargo room depending on backseat configuration.

We'll end with Touareg's spectacular, high-tech "assists," including hydraulic brake assist, ant-slip regulation, electronic brake force distribution, anti-lock brakes, electronic differential lock and engine braking assist.

We rate Touareg a strong nine on a scale of 10 with little to be disappointed with. Granted, 14 mpg city and 18 mpg highway aren't numbers to brag about, but in all other categories, this off-roader is a real dream.

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CELEBRITY extra

by Evelyn Green

Q. I have a question about the guy who plays Warren Brown on "CSI" (I believe his name is Gary Dourdan). Is he married or spoken for? I am very interested. — *Jennifer B. in Tifton, Ga.*

A. The former "A Different World" actor Gary Dourdan, who just turned 38 on Dec. 11, is divorced from supermodel Roshumba Williams and has a daughter named Nyla and a son, Lyric. Dourdan soon will be sharing the big screen with Holly Hunter and Michael Gambon in the title role of 2005's "My Boy." It's the story of a single Irish mother's love for her black illegitimate son, her fight to hold onto him against the backdrop of racist 1950s Dublin, and her pride in watching him become rock-and-roll legend Phil Lynott.

***

Q. Here's a tough one: There was an old black and white movie with Bob Hope and Paulette Goddard called "The Cat and the Canary." How can I get to see it? Is it on (VHS tape)? Has it been renamed? — *Paul A., Fort Myers, Fla.*

A. It took a little searching, but I found the movie you're looking for. Hope and Goddard's comedic suspense thriller from 1939 was a remake of director Paul Leni's Old Dark House silent film of the same name from 1927. While the 1939 version has not been released in any official media format, I found many listings for the movie on VHS on eBay. A DVD version was recently made available in the United Kingdom, but the format is not compatible with DVD players used in the United States.

***

Q. Hands-down, my favorite new show this season has got to be ABC's "Desperate Housewives." I

Gary Dourdan

know there's a lot of fuss surrounding John, the young gardener, but Mike Delfino, the sexy plumber, is more my cup of tea. Please tell me everything you can about him. — *Jenni in Portland, Maine*

A. Well, I'll tell you as much as I can about James Denton, 41, or as much as space will allow! Denton was born in Nashville, Tenn., and honed his acting skills in Chicago's renowned theater scene. After numerous theater roles and many guest-starring roles in television ("Ally McBeal," "JAG," "Sliders" and "Dark Skies," to name a few), he landed starring roles in "Philly" (2001) and "Threat Matrix" (2003). The cancellation of "Threat Matrix" led him to "Desperate Housewives," and American women have been salivating ever since. He is married (shucks!) and has one child. Interesting tidbit: He dated country music singer Deanna Carter in high school.

***

Have a question for Evelyn? E-mail her at letters.kfws@hearstsc.com, or write to her in care of King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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CRITIC'S CORNER By D.N.A Smith

"Christmas With the Kranks"

Running time: 94 minutes
MPAA rating: PG

"Christmas With the Kranks" isn't the worst movie ever made. It is, however, one of the worst Christmas movies ever made. This film will suck the Christmas Spirit right out of you.

Tim Allen and Jamie Lee Curtis play Luther and Nora Krank, a couple of Chicago suburbanites whose daughter leaves home after Thanksgiving to go to work for the Peace Corps in Peru. Luther, an accountant, discovers that they've been spending about six grand a year on Christmas, and now that the house is empty, why don't he and the wife use the money to go on a Caribbean holiday rather than blowing it all on superficial holiday extravagance.

So, to save the money for their trip they eschew sending Christmas cards, holding parties, buying gifts and decorating their home. This enrages their Christmas-obsessed neighbors, who descend upon them like jackbooted thugs — even to the point of having them arrested.

The film's ugly message is, forget that Christmas is about home and family and how your family chooses to celebrate. Christmas is really about the decorations and consumer excess. And if you don't keep up with your overspending Joneses, you are not only anti-Christian, you are anti-American — a perfect example of Hollywood stereotyping Middle America as a bunch of fascist, narrow-minded lynch mobs.

"Christmas With the Kranks" had the potential to be a great film that satirized the petty politics of homeowners associations and the mania of holiday spending, but instead, it drops the ball, shifts gears and tries to become a sappy, holiday "It's a Wonderful Life"/"A Christmas Carol" ripoff in the final act.

Tim Allen

The slapstick gags seem like retreads from "Home Alone" and "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" — and those films did them better. In fact, why not save a trip to the theater and rent those two movies (and "A Christmas Story"). You'll have a much better time, and your Christmas Spirit will be rekindled.

GRADE: F

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Books

The Hammer: Tom DeLay, God, Money and the Rise of the Republican Congress
by Lou Dubose and Jan Reid
(PublicAffairs, $26)
Reviewed by Larry Cox

How did Tom DeLay, owner of a pest control business in Texas and son of an alcoholic, dysfunctional father, become one of the most powerful men in America? A fascinating new book by Lou Dubose and Jan Reid supplies at least some of the answers.

Things didn't come easily for DeLay. He was raised in the roughneck camps of the Texas oilpatch and struggled throughout much of his early life. When he was first elected to the Texas legislature, his colleagues wrote him off as a right-wing nut who represented a colorless Houston suburb.

His fellow legislators woefully underestimated him.

DeLay won a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives and began building an incredible power base. On the Hill, he quickly earned the nickname of "Hammer" because of the heavy-handed and often ruthless way he has of dealing with people.

Due mostly to DeLay, the House has become a single-party operation. According to Dubose and Reid, age-old traditions such as the committee system, meaningful floor debate, bipartisan collaboration and even basic good manners have either been gutted or discarded entirely and replaced by an agenda that is, more often than not, mean-spirited.

According to the authors, DeLay's real power is derived from his mastery of loopholes and evasions of campaign finance laws. He has put together one of the most powerful fundraising networks ever seen and controls much of what is accomplished, and not accomplished, in Congress.

Dubose and Reid have written a fairly balanced book that is insightful and perceptive.

Moments in time
THE HISTORY CHANNEL

• On **Dec. 23, 1931,** Bette Davis signs with Universal after years of work as a struggling actress, and she makes her film debut the following year in "Bad Sister."

• On **Dec. 24, 1953,** "Dragnet" becomes the first network TV series with a regular sponsor when Fatima cigarettes signs on to back the show.

• On **Dec. 20, 1963,** the Berlin Wall is opened for the first time in more than two years, as nearly 4,000 West Berliners are allowed to cross into communist East Berlin to visit relatives for one day. Under an agreement reached between East and West Berlin, more than 170,000 passes were eventually issued to West Berlin citizens.

• On **Dec. 22, 1973,** a federal speed limit of 55 mph is imposed throughout the United States. Although the new limit led to widespread speeding, studies showed it achieved its goals of increasing safety and fuel economy.

• On **Dec. 21, 1988,** Pan Am Flight 103 from London to New York explodes in midair 31,000 feet over Lockerbie, Scotland, when a bomb hidden inside an audio cassette player detonates inside the cargo area. All 259 passengers, including 38 Syracuse University students returning home for the holidays, were killed in the explosion.

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PAGE FROM THE PAST

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1925. INDEPENDENT-LEADER

WASHINGTON NEWS ITEMS

The Sacramento River registered two feet three inches U. S. gauge at the Southern Pacific bridge yesterday. Owing to the great amount of water being allowed to drain into the river at the present time from the rice fields of up-river counties, the stage of the river has raised several inches within the past two weeks.

Joseph Peltier, one of the trustees of Reclamation District No. 900, or West Sacramento, was a visitor yesterday at Westgate. Mr. Peltier takes a lively interest in the affairs of the district and whenever opportunity presents itself he doesn't hesitate to make a trip from his home in San Mateo County to West Sacramento.

James P. McAnulty is at Westgate overlooking affairs of the Central California Development Company after several days' absence in Oakland and San Francisco.

Today the dredger Mars, owned by the Olympian Dredging Company of San Francisco, was placed at work strengthening the levee of the West Sacramento District at a point fronting the Alaska Packers' Association properties near Chichory Bend. Last winter, owing to the high stage of the river, this section of the levee was eroded considerably and the work now being done by the Mars became necessary. Other sections of the levee will also be strengthened as noted in the last issue of the Independent.

Julius' Italian Restaurant, 303 J St. 75-cent chicken and ravioli dinner Sunday, 11 to 2 p. m., 5 o'clock on. Coolest dining room in Sacramento. (adv

Charles Powers, deputy sheriff under Sheriff Monroe and in charge of the West Sacramento Auto Camp, is improving at his home, but is now afflicted with an ulcer on one of his eyes. Last week he was troubled with kidney trouble, but has greatly improved from that condition.

Last Thursday evening, September 24th, Constable Wilson swooped down on a gambling game located at a point north of Rocky Point and arrested Wong Gee, who at that time was engaged in dealing a chuck-a-luck game. Wilson took up part of the paraphernalia used in conducting the game, but had not sufficient evidence to secure a conviction. Nevertheless when the Chinaman was brought before Judge Barry he waived all rights and pleaded guilty. Because this was his second offense committed in the same place Judge Barry fined the Oriental $150. The Chinese immediately closed his premises and crossed the bridge to Sacramento.

Jack G. Monahan of San Francisco, arrested for speeding by Officer Jacobs last Saturday, pleaded guilty by mail last Monday to Judge Barry. He was fined $10, which was paid immediately by return mail.

E. J. Pinto, a resident of Bryte who has been thoroughly enjoying himself on his motorcycle by smashing any speed records that were ever heard of between Washington and his home, was taken up by Traffic Officer Jacobs last Monday for reckless driving. When arraigned before Judge Barry he pleaded guilty and was fined $15, which he paid immediately.

J. S. Lear and Tom Dupzyk have established a plumbing shop in the rear of the Dupzyk home on Tihrd Street and have entered the business to make a living for themselves and their families. Both are competent workmen, having good strong backs and brawny arms. When business in the plumbing line is light they propose to enter into the automobile repair business, and since both of them are all-around mechanics they anticipate they will be able to get their share of the trade this side of the river as well as some from the other side.

G. W. Lewis returned to his home on Second Street yesterday after having been confined in the Sutter Hospital for a period of six weeks. He has greatly recovered from his sickness and may be able to return to his work in Sacramento in a few days.

TURKEY THIEF SHOT IN LISBON DISTRICT BY IRATE FARMER

Refusing to halt as he was fleeing from a turkey shed on the ranch of Smith and Reddell, near Lisbon, Joe Lawrence, former cook on the ranch, was fatally shot Sunday night by Geo. T. Jamison, foreman of the ranch. He died en route to Sacramento. Sheriff James W. Monroe left early today for the scene but advanced the belief that no arrest would be made.

According to the story told Sheriff Monroe by telephone by Jamison, he was attracted to the vicinity of the turkey shed by a noise and saw Lawrence, whom he did not recognize, running toward a car parked nearby. He commanded the man to halt but Lawrence only quickened his speed and Jamison opened fire with a shotgun. Lawrence fell within a few feet of his car. Jamison says that four turkeys, their feet tied ready to be carried away, were lying in the road near the car.

Lawrence, who until recently was employed as a cook on the ranch, was carried to the ranch house and Sheriff Monroe notified by telephone.

"I just shot a man I caught stealing turkeys and I guess he's done for."

"Put him in your car and make a run for the emergency hospital at Sacramento," ordered Sheriff Monroe.

Just before dying he looked up at Jamison and said: "I guess you got me, all right. I wouldn't have tried anything like this but I've been drinking pretty strong liquor and wanted money pretty bad."

After delivering the body to the Sacramento police, Jamison gave himself up but was released on his own recognizance on the order of Sheriff Monroe.

Before leaving his office for the scene of the shooting today the sheriff expressed the opinion that Jamison's version of the shooting is correct and would not hold him.

MARKSMAN IS EXONERATED FOR SHOOTING

George T. Jamison, foreman of the Smith and Redell ranch, near Lisbon, was exonerated by a coroner's jury at Sacramento in the killing of John Flores, alias Joe Lawrence, who was shot while caught in the act of stealing turkeys and died a few minutes later while being rushed to Sacramento. Coroner Jack Skelton of Sacramento County presided. It is understood that nothing further will be done.

Sheriff James W. Monroe and District Attorney George T. Kern, who, under the law would be the prosecuting officers, declared that the coroner's verdict closes the case.

The finding as officially set forth in the records reads as follows:

$6000 PER ACRE IS PRICE OF LAND IN WASHINGTON

Yesterday a deal was completed by Thomas O'Connor for an acre of land which he jointly owns with Mrs. Mary Harbinson at a price of $6000.00 per acre and a deposit of sufficient size was made in the deal to insure the sale of the property.

The piece of land is located on the highway at the foot of Fifth Street and west of the present roadway. The land is vacant for the time being, but it is understood by Mr. O'Connor that it will be used by the new purchaser for business purposes.

When the State highway is built from the new subway to the M Street bridge this piece of land will be an advantageous corner, because it will not only be convenient to the new State highway but it will be on the roadway now being used as a highway through the town of Washington.

The Independent could not secure the name of the purchaser, but certainly the desirability of the property is exemplified in the price paid for the land.

From what the Independent understands, the piece of land will be used for commercial purposes, either as a service station or as a hotel site with stores and other accommodations.

Several years ago the property closer to Sacramento, the Reed orchard property, was sold for $1000.00 per acre, and at that time it was believed that price was a substantial one.

The price obtained by Mr. O'Connor for this piece of land sets a new record in land values at this side of the river.

DUCK SEASON OPENS WITH MANY GOOD BAGS RETURNED

Wednesday night and early Thursday morning, October 1st, many local sportsmen went out in the duck ponds after the feathered tribe.

Needless to say that the boys of this section brought home good bags on the first day of the season. The ducks are fat and heavy and are well fed and were not afraid of the huntsmen on the first day's running.

Thousands of Sacramento sportsmen and other sections of the State took advantage of the gun clubs established in northern counties, but their returns were not so fortunate.

Those who frequented the rice fields brought home good bags of ducks, but rice growers are a little cranky because some hunters break down the standing rice when going after their kills.

Local hunters in Washington did not forget that the office of the Independent is always open for little returns of that kind.

ANOTHER CANNED HEAT VICTIM FOUND IN RIVER

Mystery surrounds the death of a man whose body was found in the Sacramento river below the M Street bridge. The body was discovered by transients, who notified Constable Frank Wilson. Wilson immediately called Coroner Ross Wilson, who sent for the body. He had not determined the identity of the dead man.

Coroner Ross C. Wilson Wednesday recovered the body of a one-legged itinerant from the Yolo side of the Sacramento river near the M Street bridge. The discovery of the body was reported to Constable Frank Wilson of Broderick, who in turn called Wilson. There was nothing on the man to identify him. His general appearance and dress indicated he was one of the Broderick jungle men. Constable Wilson stated he had run the fellow out of Broderick several times of late.

RAPID PROGRESS IS BEING MADE ON NEW SUBWAY UNDER TRACKS

The steam shovel that had been digging the subway under the tracks of the Sacramento Northern Railway in West Sacramento completed its work yesterday and was moved away today.

During the past week piling had been driven at the subway site to support the tracks of the railroad until the new concrete subway is completed.

On the southern side of the railroad embankment the steam shovel also excavated a grade for the roadway that is about to be built. The excavated material was moved by trucks to the borrow pit on the northern side of the railroad embankment, and that with the material excavated from the embankment was sufficient to raise the grade to the proper elevation from the subway to Fifth Street.

On completion of this excavation work the contractors, Lord & Bishop of Napa, will start building the subway designed by the State Highway Commission, and in all likelihood the roadway will be completed from the State Highway in West Sacramento to Fifth Street within the next month.

The contract for the road from Fifth Street eastward to the M Street bridge has not yet been let by the State Highway Commission. Here it will be necessary to make a large fill in the borrow pit north of the railroad embankment.

It is understood that this fill will be done through the medium of a suction dredger that is about to be placed in the river.

Condemnation proceedings have been entered by the State Highway Commission against the owners of the property, T. L. O'Connor and Mary Harbinson, for that portion of their property that will be required for the roadbed and immediately outside the right-of-way of the railroad company.

PROBATE ASKED FOR WILL OF JOSEPH SHAW BY WIFE

Woodland, Sept. 30.—Application for probate of the will of Ralph Shaw of Broderick, who died September 23rd, indicates that he left an estate of real estate and personal property valued at about $20,000.

The estate, according to the provisions of his will, which was drawn on October 17, 1921, is left to his widow, who is also named executrix. The will sets forth that the share of the two children of the couple, Ralph Shaw, who resides with his mother at 520 Second Street, Broderick, and Mabel Inez Shaw of Eldridge, shall be decided by Mrs. Eva E. Shaw, the widow.

AUTO ACCIDENT RESULTS IN INJURIES TO WOMEN AND CHILD

Three persons were injured, including a 3-year-old child, when an automobile owned and driven by S. J. Ritchie of Concord crashed into a lineup of cars near Hart's service station, about a mile and a half out of Broderick, late Sunday afternoon. The injured were taken to their homes in Sacramento.

According to State Traffic Officer H. R. Jacobs, who arrived at the scene within a few minutes after the accident happened, most of the witnesses blamed John Franzoia, 1622 V Street, Sacramento, who is said to have been filling his gas tank at the service station and suddenly pulled out into the road without warning.

The injured were:

Mrs. A. E. Springer, 818 G Street, Sacramento. Back wrenched; cut by flying glass.

Mrs. Verda Page, same address, cut by flying glass.

Anne Page, Mrs. Page's 3-year-old daughter; slightly cut by flying glass.

As Franzoia pulled into the road from the service station, S. J. Ritchie of Concord, who was driving a heavy car, swerved aside to avoid striking him and struck a stage driven by E. M. Casinelli. The collision with the stage threw Ritchie's car against one driven by J. M. Bryan of the Moeller Auto Sales, Sacramento. The force of the impact turned Bryan's car, in which the two women and child were riding, into a ditch.

Glass flew in all directions as the car went over. Ritchie managed to bring his car to a stop.

The injured persons were given first aid at the service station and then taken to Sacramento. It was said that the condition of Mrs. Springer is serious.

Although witnesses agreed that Franzoia was entirely to blame for the accident he was not held. Ritchie said that he was coming along at a moderate speed when Franzoia pulled directly in front of him from the service station at the side of the road. He swerved quickly, but the stage

BOOSTER'S CLUB AIMS TO CLEAN UP CONDITIONS ON RIVER LEVEE

At the meeting of the Washington Boosters' Club last Tuesday evening it was resolved that the club would make another endeavor to clean up conditions on the river levee between the S. P. bridge and the M Street bridge.

Members of the club acknowledged that Sheriff Monroe and Constable Wilson were doing everything in their power to relieve the situation, but they acknowledge that no sooner was a clean-up made by those officers than more derelicts were driven across the river by the police force in Sacramento.

The class of people who resort to the joints or narcotic haunts on the river levee came from Sacramento, and it was advanced by members of the club that not a single person from Washington was among them.

Some time ago a committee was appointed to make the clean-up. At the head of this committee Ray Peak was named chairman, and he was again requested last Tuesday evening to get his committee at work again in an endeavor to relieve the situation.

No report had been received by the club concerning the building of more shanties in and around the town. At a previous meeting advice had been given that it was the intention of a property owner to build a number of these shanties on a vacant lot next the Community Church and fronting on the public school building and on the highway running westward.

Considerable discussion was brought about by the presence of Thomas Slaven, who advanced the idea that the Sacramento Bee was doing everything in its endeavor to prevent gambling in the town.

It was shown, however, that no gambling is being conducted within the town limits at the present time, or at least there was no Chinese gambling within the town limits.

Joe Pereira was present at the meeting of the club last Tuesday night for the first time in several months, and reported that Mrs. Pereira is gradually improving in health, at Nevada City.

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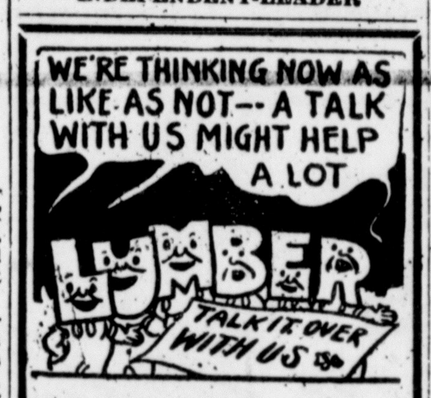

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WATER MAINS INSTALLED THROUGHOUT WESTGATE AND HOMES CONNECTED

All new water mains have been installed in the Westgate district and plumbers are now busy connecting homes with the new water supply.

Homes that are now being built are having connections made before owners move in and a wonderful clear and pure supply of water for domestic purposes is being furnished.

Over the well and pump used for the system a house is being now constructed by the West Sacramento Company, and since the pump is automatic there will be no shortage at any time through negligence.

The water mains are supplied by a pressure system and a regular pressure of about thirty pounds to the square inch will be maintained at all times.

The well supplying water to the mains for Westgate was sunk to a depth of 800 feet and was cased nearly the entire distance so that there will be no chance for surface water or alkali water to get into the water mains.

As a matter of fact, the casing of this well was doubled with a lining of concrete between so that it is absolutely safe from contamination.

Tests made of the water by the University of California show that it is eminently suitable for domestic purposes.

The film board of the Federated Women's Councils is not going to post any more bulletins.

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Police log

Dec. 8, 9:34 a.m.

An officer took a report that a 20-year old man had been responsible for impregnating his 14-year old girlfriend. The girl recently gave birth. Child Protective Services was also investigating the allegation.

Dec. 8, 3:45 p.m.

A West Sacramento officer and his police dog responded to the city of Davis to help find the suspect in an auto theft. The dog found the suspect, who was then arrested.

Dec. 9, 8:21 a.m.

An unknown suspect smashed the window of a vehicle on Long Island Street. No items were determined to be missing.

Dec. 9, 9:04 a.m.

Someone pried open the driver's side window of a car on Cat Island Road, taking a car stereo. Other car burglaries were similarly reported on nearby including Midway Rd., Ryer Island, Haiti Rd., and Hornsby.

Dec. 9, 11:34 a.m.

Aon Peppertree Ct., a 1997 Chevy pickup was reported stolen during the night. It may have been the same vehicle that went into the river a half mile away shortly after the stolen truck was last seen.

Dec. 9, 12:47 p.m.

A 1999 Vulcan motorcycle was reported stolen from the driveway of a Lagoon Road home.

Dec. 9, 1:38 p.m.

A middle school student threatened to kill himself, and was taken to a Woodland hospital for help.

Dec. 10, 3:30 p.m.

A large gas main was broken during construction near Lake Washington Blvd. and Jefferson Blvd. nearby streets were closed for hours.

Dec. 10, 5:56 p.m.

An officer saw a West Sacramento man driving on Todhunter and Sacramento Ave. and failing to yield, nearly causing an accident. He stopped the man, who smelled of alcohol and could not walk without assistance. The man was arrested.

Dec. 10, 7:40 p.m.

A vehicle drove into a retaining wall at South River Road and Gregory. The driver left the scene. Blood was found behind. A family member was contacted, and said the driver had returned home but injuries were not serious. The vehicle was towed.

Dec. 10, 8:57 p.m.

Three suspects were drinking with a man and his roommate at Madrone Avenue. One of the suspects assaulted the resident and roommate, and stole his 1998 Mustang. A second suspect met up with the assailant and they took the stereo from the car. She was later found and the stereo recovered. The car and other two suspects were not located.

Dec. 11, 2:05 a.m.

Officers were dispatched to a robbery at a convenience store on Jefferson Blvd. The suspect simulated a weapon and made off with $100 in cash and lottery tickets.

Dec. 12, 7:05 p.m.

An officer saw a 58-year old man sitting in front of a Sacramento Avenue address with an open 24-ounce container of alcoholic beverage. The man was intoxicated and slurred his words, and became belligerent when officers approached. He was arrested.

Dec. 12, 7:08 p.m.

A woman said she had been held for four days by her ex-boyfriend, who finally kept her cell phone but let her leave.

Dec. 12, 7:32 p.m.

A Southport man was accused of assaulting his ex-girlfriend and flattening one of her tires.

Dec. 12, 12:20 a.m.

An officer stopped a West Sacramento man who was driving with expired registration tags. The man appeared intoxicated and couldn't complete a sobriety test. He was arrested.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

• Here's some food for thought while you're calculating your household budget: According to recent estimates, the government of the United States borrows approximately $1 million every minute.

• Add to the list of odd works of literature six books that, I daresay, none of you has ever read: "!!!," published in 1881; "?" (1885); "C" (1924); 1963's "v" (lower-case, of course!); "G" (1972); and "U and I," which was published in 1991.

• It was Abba Eban, a former Israeli foreign minister, who made this sage observation: "It is our experience that political leaders do not always mean the opposite of what they say."

LOCAL from p. 12

Combs Family Center, 205 Stone Blvd. The program acquaints kids with numbers, shapes, colors and the alphabet. Three-month session, fees vary. Students must be potty-trained. Call 617-4620.

Help with the bill

Your donation will help low-income people pay their energy bills this winter. Through "Relief for Energy Assistance through Community Help," or REACH, the Salvation Army collects and distributes one-time assistance to households who need help with their bill. You can make a tax-deductible monthly contribution on your bill, or call (800) 933-9677 for more information on the program. Call the same number, or call (800) PGE-5000, if you are interested in applying for assistance.

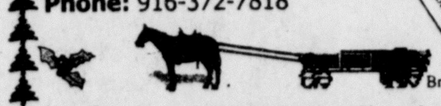
City service

The city of West Sacramento is seeking applications from those interested in serving on the following boards and commissions: Board of Appeals, Culture & Historic Preservation Commission, Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission, Commission on Aging, Economic Development Advisory Commission, Housing Advisory Commission, Parks & Community Services Commission and Planning Commission. Visit the city website (www.ci.west-sacramento.ca.us) or call 617-4500.

Free Hay Ride and Caroling

Fun for the whole family!!!

When: Dec. 18th Saturday
Where: Bridgeway School / Park
Time: 5:30—9:30pm
Phone: 916-372-7818



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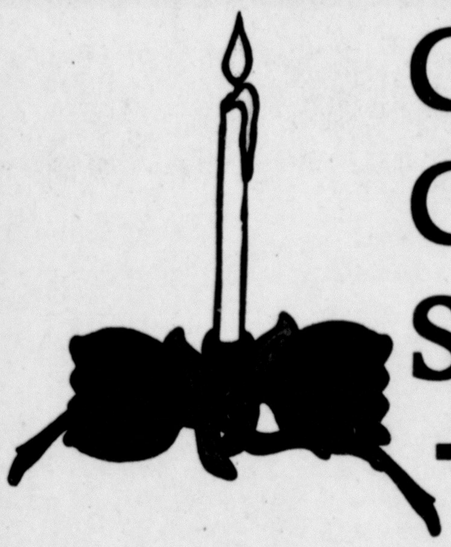


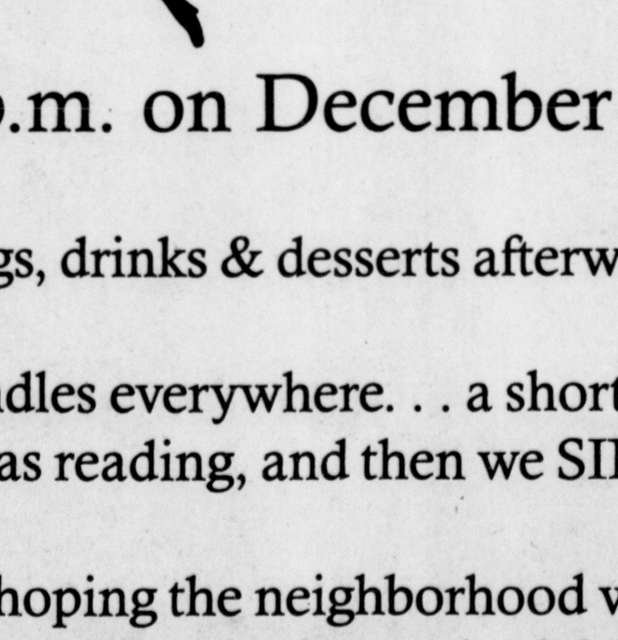
at 6 p.m. on December 19

Chili dogs, drinks & desserts afterwards.

Candles everywhere. . . a short Christmas reading, and then we SING!!

We're hoping the neighborhood will show up to enjoy singing and celebrating with us. Join us!

First Southern Baptist Church
2124 Michigan Blvd. (corner of Maple)



What's your RMD?

Not knowing can cost you.

At age 70 ½ you have to start taking Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from your IRA accounts. If you figure the total amount incorrectly, the IRS could charge you a 50 percent penalty.

I can help. When you consolidate all of your retirement accounts into an Edward Jones self-directed IRA, we will calculate the RMD for you. Consolidation offers other benefits, including:

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- a more complete financial picture
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Edward Jones
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Answers to 'Sports Quiz' (p. 3) and Puzzles (p. 8)

National Numbers answers

3	1		9	1	5		7	1
2	5	1	1		2	8	4	0
		6				3		
1	1	6	2		2	7	4	5
9	2		7	1	0		6	1

L	A	D	D		B	A	B	A		A	C	T		L	A	S	S	O	S
A	L	I	A	S		E	L	A	N		D	Y	E		A	L	T	E	R	S
I	M	A	D	E	A	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	S		P	A	E	L	L	A
	S	N	A	R	L		C	L	A	M		A	T	E		D	R	A	Y	
			I	D	O				B	U	N		T	I	D	E				
	P	I	T	F	A	L	L		R	E	S	O	L	U	T	I	O	N	T	O
B	A	N	E			D	E	M	U	R	E		A	D	E	N		A	U	X
A	C	C	E	S	S		A	I	D			S	H	E	M		P	O	N	E
B	E	A	N	I	C	E	R	K	I	N	D	E	R			H	E	M	I	N
E	R	N		L	O	R	N	E		E	D	A		S	C	E	N	I	C	
		F	E	N	G			E	X	T			A	R	A	N				
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C	A	P	E	T			P	E	R	S	O	N	B	U	T	T	H	E	N	I
R	I	T	E		O	R	A	L				V	A	N		E	Y	E	L	E	T
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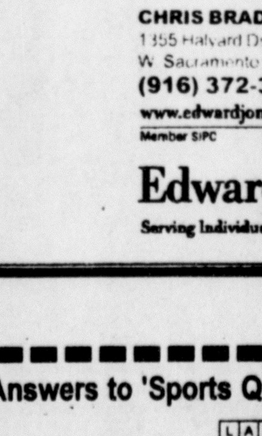
L	A	T	I	N	O		I	C	E		A	M	E	S		A	T	R	I	A
T	R	A	D	E	D		S	A	X		K	A	Y	E			E	A	S	Y

Differences: 1. Wreath is missing. 2. Tail is shorter. 3. Shirt is shorter. 4. Tools are missing. 5. Stocking is different. 6. Basket is missing.



Answers

1. Connie Mack was 70 when he managed the American League All-Stars in 1933.
2. Steve Carlton of the Philadelphia Phillies in 1980.
3. Gary Anderson hit 40 in a row between 1997 and 1998.
4. Jacksonville (1970), Florida State (1972) and the University of Florida (1994, 2000).
5. Chelios has won three (1989, 1993, 1996) and Leetch two (1992, 1997).
6. It was 1978 at Darlington.
7. Roger Federer (2003-04).

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Local Scene

Hay ride

Southport Community Church is sponsoring a free hay ride and caroling session on Saturday, Dec. 18 from 5:30-9:30 p.m. at Bridgeway School and park, Promenade Street. There will be cookies, candy canes and hot chocolate, with passenger loading every 20 minutes. Call 372-7818 for more information.

Photo history

A photo history book of West Sacramento (including Broderick, Bryte and Southport) since the 1800s is now for sale, thanks to a commission by the West Sacramento Historical Society. For $21.55 (including tax) you can see what the region has looked like over the years – and you may even see a photo of someone you know. Call 371-7678 or 296-5616.

Grant program

The City of West Sacramento is selecting grant requests through the 2004-05 Community Mini-Grant program. A total of $20,000 is available for organizations serving the region. Applications must be turned in to the parks department by January 31. Call 617-4620 for information.

Golden Years

A pot luck for members of the Golden Years Club (serving those 50 and over) will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 21, at the VFW Hall, 905 Drever Street. Please bring your own service. For information on membership, call 371-8479 or 371-8126.

Little League

West Sacramento Little League is holding online registration for the 2005 season at www.westsacll.com. You may also phone Jeff Morazzini, 996-6160, for information.

Bingo

Ring in the New Year with bingo at the Elks Lodge, 423 Third Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. on Dec. 31 and games start at 7:30 p.m. $10 buys in and includes refreshments. For more information, call 371-7122.

Food giveaway

The Food Bank of Yolo County will distribute food to eligible residents of Clarksburg and West Sacramento on Tuesday, Dec. 28. The giveaway will be held from 8-9:30 a.m. at the county building on Jefferson Blvd.; from 9-9:30 a.m. at Community Lutheran Church; from 89:30-9:30 a.m. at Yolo Housing Authority; and from 10-11 a.m. at the Clarksburg firehouse. For eligibility information, call (530) 758-6821. Please bring a bag.

Adult basketball

The city's "5 on 5" adult basketball Sunday night league is accepting team applications. Registration is $340 per team (minimum of eight games, plus two rounds of playoffs). Games are played at River City High School. Call 617-4620 or sign up at the website, http://www.ci.west-sacramento.ca.us. Deadline is Jan. 7.

Ice rink

The region's only outdoor ice rink, at the downtown plaza in Sacramento, is open through January 2 from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. (closed Christmas Day and closing at 6 p.m. Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve. Admission is $6 per skater and $2 for skate rental.

County services

Most non-essential offices and facilities operated by the County of Yolo will close from December 20 until after the New Year's holiday, re-opening January 3. The closures are a means of cutting costs after state budget cuts and include putting employees on non-paid furlough. The closure will include library branches, the district attorney's office, animal shelter (some services), parks, and other departments. Visit the county website, www.yolocounty.org, for more information.

School concert

The student musicians of Golden State Middle School invite you to a band and choir concert on Wed., Dec. 15 at 7 p.m. in the school gym.

Seniors' needs

A survey on the needs of county senior citizens will help determine how future resources will be allocated. The Area 4 Agency on Aging is co-sponsoring the surveys, which are available at West Sacramento City Hall (1110 West Capitol Avenue) at the front counter on the first floor, at the West Sacramento Senior Center (664 Cummins Way) and at the library on Merkley Avenue. Surveys are due by December 24.

Outstanding locals

The West Sacramento Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominations for "West Sacramentan of the Year," "Businessperson of the Year" and "Business of the Year." Contact the chamber at 371-7042 for information.

Supporting elderly

Nugget Market has signed up for a program to benefit the Elderly Nutrition Program of Yolo County, which helps provide services including meals for shut-in seniors. Bring your Nugget receipts to a drop box at the store in West Sacramento and the store will donate 1% of the value tabulated on all collected receipts to the Elderly Nutrition Program. Receipts may also be delivered to the meal site manager, Patty Hickey, at the West Sacramento Senior Center, 666 Cummins Way.

Babysitter class

The City of West Sacramento's parks department is offering the American Red Cross babysitter training course, including information on safety, first aid, feeding, diapering and interviewing for a job. Pre-registration is necessary. Open to students 11 and up. Call 617-4620.

Like your highways?

The California Department of Transportation is asking for feedback on the condition of state highways. Survey-takers will identify themselves by ZIP code and provide CalTrans with feedback. Visit www.dot.ca.gov/cgi-bin/roads.cgi before January 5.

Hunter safety

The city parks department will offer a hunter's safety course on January 11-12. This is a state-mandated class for anyone receiving a hunting license in California, and will last 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day. $10 for city residents; $15 for others. Open to those age eight and up. Call 617-4620 for more information.

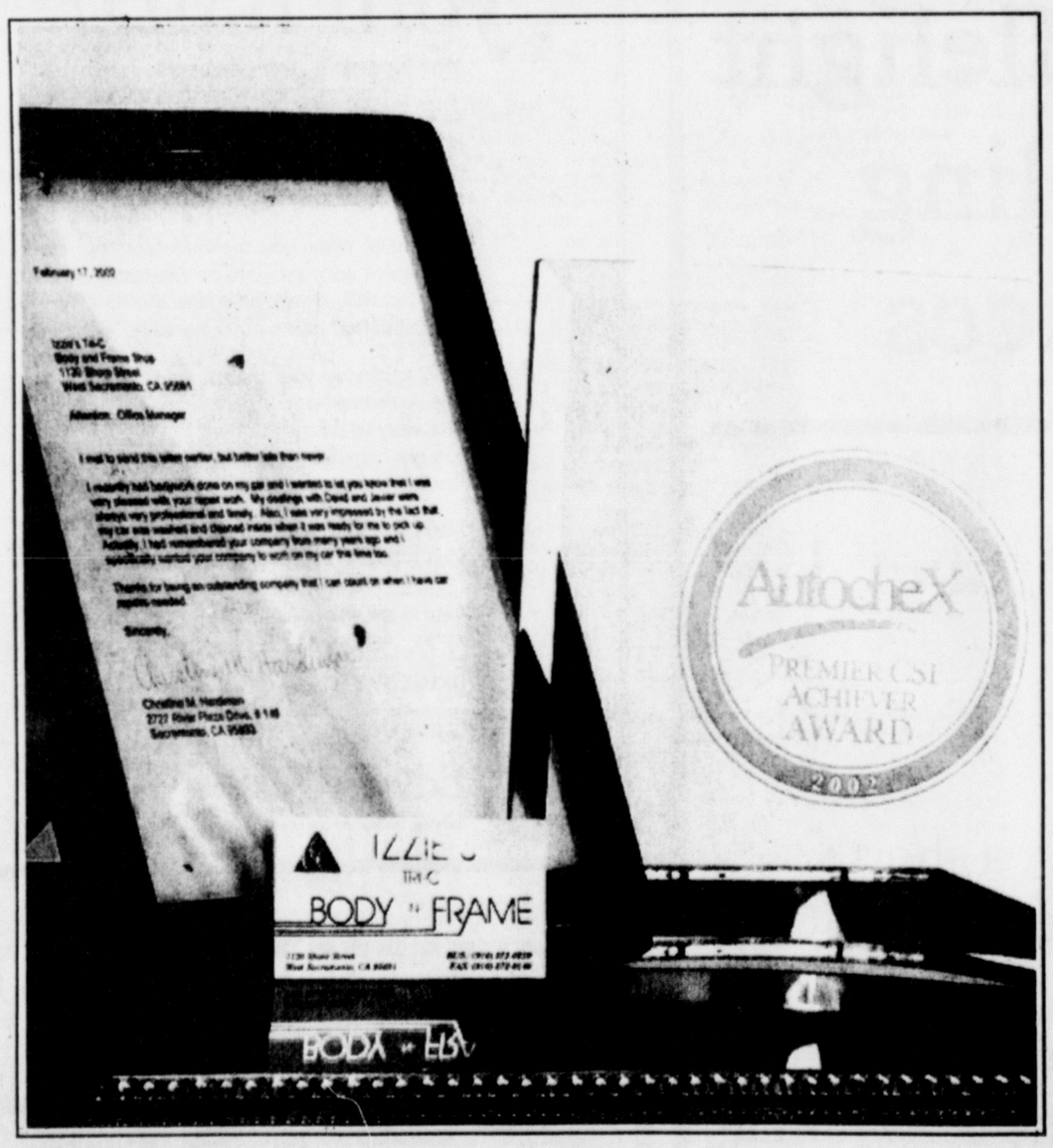
Martial art

The city parks department offers an ongoing class in Tai-Chi-Chung, a self-defense strategy used primarily for gentle exercise. The class meats Mondays 7-8 p.m. and Wednesdays 7-8 a.m. at the civic center. Fee is $50 for five classes (may be taken anytime over a six-month period). Call 617-4620.

Preschool

There are openings for three-year olds at Discovery Preschool, operated by the City of West Sacramento at the Sam

Please see LOCAL, page 11



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"Being involved in a car accident is a very traumatic experience. You helped alleviate much of that trauma. From the moment my car was brought to you until the day I picked it up, I was put at ease by the manner in which you handled my unfortunate situation.
My car turned out beautifully and runs as well, if not better, than before. I would *highly* recommend Izzie's to anyone finding themselves looking for an honest, reputable repair shop."
-- MARILYN SPEEGILMAN

"The repair work is great, but the service was excellent.
Everyone at your company went out of their way to make this experience as painless as possible for me. They even delivered the vehicle to my home!"
-- TERI WION

"I recently had bodywork done on my car and I wanted to let you know that I was very pleased with your repair work. My dealings with David and Javier were always very professional and timely. Also, I was very impressed by the fact that my car was washed and cleaned inside when it was ready for me to pick up.
Thanks for being an outstanding company that I can count on when I have car repairs needed."
-- CHRISTINE M. HARDIMAN

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